



ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
HEALTH
OF THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF WIGAN
FOR THE YEAR 1938.

HENRY WHITEHEAD, M.D., D.P.H. (VICT.), M.B., B.S. (LOND.)
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
CHIEF TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER,
SUPERINTENDENT SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER,
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF CORPORATION
HOSPITALS, &C.

WIGAN :
THOS. WALL AND SONS LIMITED, PRINTERS, "OBSERVER" OFFICE,
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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1938.

Medical Officer of Health,
 Superintendent School Medical Officer,
 Administrative Tuberculosis Officer :
HENRY WHITEHEAD, M.D., D.P.H., (Vict.), M.B., B.S. (Lond.)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health,
 Clinical Tuberculosis Officer :
HENRY RICHMOND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer—Maternity and Child Welfare (part time) :
 (Miss) **ISOBEL M. SMITH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

Dentist—Maternity and Child Welfare and Tuberculosis (part time) :
C. F. L. PURSLOW, L.D.S., R.C.S., Eng.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :
FREDERICK MARTLEW (a) (b).

Sanitary Inspectors :
J. ASHTON (a) (b), V. JONES (a) (b), T. McKNIGHT (a) (b), W. HIGGINS (a) (b).
 (from 1st Feb.). **E. HARRIS (a) (b) (g)**

Factory, Workshops, and Shops Inspector : **E. RICHARDSON (a).**
 Shops Inspectors : **R. C. WOODS. (a)(b), S. REEVES (a) (from 4th April).**

Matron of Sanatoria : **MISS L. ROTHWELL, S.R.N., R.F.N.**

Lady Health Visitors :
B. CROMPTON (c)(d), M. L. GOLD (a)(c), M. E. WHEAT (c)(e)(f),
A. L. G. MARTIN (c)(e)(f), C. W. CAMPBELL (c)(e)(f), E. HANSON (c)(e)(f).

Tuberculosis Nurse : **L. WEST (a).**

Chief Clerk : **A. N. BYERS.**

Clerks :
P. STRAFFORD (a) (b), J. C. DAVENPORT, R. LATCHFORD (from 4th April),
F. L. THOMAS.

Tuberculosis Dispensary : **A. FAIRHURST.**

Maternity and Child Welfare Department : **M. MILLER, A. C. BOYD.**

Steam Disinfector Attendant : **J. RISLEY.**

Disinfectors : **J. GRIFFITHS, E. SMITH.**

Motor Drivers : **N. ABBOTT, R. MacKENZIE.**

PART-TIME OFFICERS.

Clinical V.D. Officer : **HENRY BARDSLEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.**
 Orthopædic Surgeon : **HENRY POSTON, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., M.Ch.**

Consultants Ante-Natal Clinic :
C. P. BRETNALL M.B., Ch.B., F.C.O.G.
C. H. WALSH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.C.O.G.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1938—Contd.

Employed as Consultants and for the Treatment of Puerperal Pyrexia:

J. F. BERRY, M.B., Ch.B. &c. C. L. GRAHAM, M.B., Ch.B.

Masseuse: MISS L. HEALY.

Public Vaccinators and District Medical Officers:

E. D. PORTMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. D. N. MACKINNON, M.B., Ch.B.

Veterinary Surgeon: WILLIAM WOODS, F.R.C.V.S.

Public Analyst: S. ERNEST MELLING, F.I.C.

Vaccination Officers: C. LATCHFORD, S. TURNER, J. BATE.

Supervisor of Midwives: E. M. READING (c) (e)

Municipal Midwives:

E. BARKER (c)	C. MORRIS (c) (e)
E. B. BROOKS (c)	M. H. MIDDLEHURST (c) (until 30th November).
M. JONES (c)	M. STANLEY (c) (e)
M. L. LYNCH (c)	J. TRAYNOR (c)
M. MCGOUGH (c)	E. WILLIAMS (c) (e)
A. MAGEE (c) (e)	E. HIGHTON (c) (from 11th July).
H. E. MAXWELL (c)	

- (a) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate
- (b) Meat Inspector's Certificate.
- (c) Certificate, Central Midwives' Board.
- (d) Health Visitor and School Nurse's Certificate
- (e) Hospital Trained
- (f) New Health Visitor's Certificate
- (g) Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

Municipal Buildings,

Library Street,

Wigan,

October, 1939.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the County Borough of Wigan.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Borough, and on the work of the Health Department, for the year 1938.

Owing to the fact that myself and members of my staff have been overwhelmed with work and worry in connection with the organisation and administration of the Emergency Casualty Services, it has not been possible to issue this report earlier.

The collecting and training of personnel of well over 1,000 persons, the planning (in co-operation with the Borough Engineer) and equipping of five large first-aid posts, the establishment of five first-aid party depots and one first-aid point, the organisation and equipping of an ambulance service of 42 vehicles. In addition, the organisation and training of civil nursing reserves and allocation are being carried out.

Medical staff for the first-aid posts and for the casualty hospitals, namely, the Wigan Infirmary and Billinge, have had to be appointed, and also the establishment of a casualty bureau which must necessarily be at this office to deal with records and daily reports of bed states, and also casualties, if any.

In addition to this a mortuary service is being organised with mortuaries in various parts of the town adequately staffed and equipped in co-operation with Mr. Walters, the Cemetery Superintendent.

All this, together with the innumerable circulars, memoranda and documents which have had to be read and studied have just about trebled the work of the Department, and I wish to pay a tribute to the way in which the members of my staff have worked and not spared themselves in the effort.

The Birth-rate is higher than in 1937, being 16·51 against 16·27 ; it is, however, considerably higher than the average for the whole country.

The General Death-rate of 13·38 is lower than last year's rate of 14·17.

The Infant Mortality was 100, a high figure compared with that of the country as a whole.

The Maternity Mortality is low again this year, being 2·10 per thousand births.

The Death-rate from Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis is slightly down, being ·74 per thousand of the population, against ·81 in 1937.

The Municipal Midwifery Service is working quite well, and each midwife is conducting a good average of cases (see page 80).

The extensions to the Health Department are nearing completion, which will provide suitable accommodation for the Health Services, and for the School Medical Services, together with special equipment for X-rays, sunlight treatment, and dental work.

As stated previously extensions to the nurses' quarters at Pemberton Hospital are necessary, but in the circumstances, this will have to be postponed.

Diphtheria was again prevalent in the Borough, 344 cases being notified against 331 in 1938. For the ten years ended 1935, the average per year was only 36.

Preventive Inoculation is offered free to all children, either pre-school or school age, but the response has been disappointing (see page 53).

Considerable progress has been made with Slum Clearance. During the year 221 dwellings were reported to the Insanitary Houses and Conversions Committee, bringing the total since the Slum Clearance Scheme commenced to 1,480, occupied by 5,606 persons. 955 dwellings have been demolished, parts of 14 buildings closed, and 82 other dwellings have ceased to be used for human habitation.

To accommodate the displaced tenants the Council have erected 738 houses on the Worsley Hall Estate, 362 on the Thicknesse Estate, and are at present erecting another 208 houses included in schemes on the Worsley Hall Estate.

Again it is my privilege and pleasure to record my thanks to all the members of my staff, both in the Health Department and the hospitals, for their loyalty and excellent work.

The volume of work increases year by year as fresh legislation and developments come along.

My thanks are also due to the Chairman of the Health Committee (His Worship the Mayor, Alderman T. Ramsden, J.P.), the Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee (Councillor Mrs. Ashurst), and also the Chairman of the Insanitary Houses and Conversions Committee (Councillor W. Shaw) for their continued co-operation, confidence and support. I thank also all the members of the committees under whom I serve for their continued courtesy and consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY WHITEHEAD.

1.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The County Borough of Wigan covers an area of 5,082 acres, and had a population at the 1931 census of 85,357. The Registrar General's estimated population on 1st July, 1938, of 82,530, on which figure statistics in this report are based. A considerable portion of the Borough is used for agricultural purposes. These areas are sparsely populated. The average number of persons per acre varies in the fourteen wards within the Borough from 5 to 105, the average being 16·8. The Borough of Wigan forms a considerable part of the valley of the River Douglas. The river is the boundary on the North side, continues its course to the centre and finally becomes the boundary on the West side. The levels on which the river enters and leaves are respectively 150 and 69 feet. Water is taken from the river for feeding the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, which traverses the town. The maximum elevations are at the extreme North 254 feet and at the South-West 260 feet. The lowest level is at the North-western boundary, which is 69 feet.

Geologically, the whole of the Borough rests on the lower coal measures, or Gannister beds, which are here very superficial, and, in fact, outcrop in several parts of the district. The sub-soil is mainly clay which in places has a depth of nearly twenty feet; but there is an important layer of sand covering a large part of the centre of the town, and extending northwards in the direction of Standish. In other parts sand is found in "pockets." Much of the western portion, beyond the Park, lies on a fairly extensive gravel bed.

The population is essentially an industrial one, the principal industries being coal, iron, cotton, and the manufacture of clothing.

Number of inhabited houses (1931 Census)	18,573
Number of inhabited houses end of 1938, according to rate books	21,590
Number of families or separate occupiers (1931 Census) ..	20,190
Rateable value (1938)	£419,837
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,583

It is pleasing to state that during recent years there has been a remarkable decrease in drunkenness occurring within the Borough.

Alcoholism, during the six years ending 31st December, 1914, accounted for no less than 23 deaths. During the year 1938 there was one death certified as being caused by alcoholism. The yearly average number of prosecutions taken against persons charged with drunkenness during the six years ending 31st December, 1914, was 337, whilst in the six years ending 1st December, 1938, the yearly average number of prosecutions for the same charge had declined to 69.

The following list shows the number of Bathers during the past five years :—

	<i>Total No. of Bathers.</i>					
1934	167,781
1935	142,024
1936	125,264
1937	143,236
1938	139,021

The Baths Superintendent, Mr. J. H. Cockrell, has kindly supplied me with the following figures and report :—

SUMMARY OF BATHERS AND PARTICULARS OF THE BOROUGH
BATHING ESTABLISHMENT FOR YEAR ENDED
MARCH 31st, 1939.

Number of Plunge Baths	..	..	..	..	2
„ Private Baths	..	..	..	..	18

BATHERS.

Male Plunge Baths	..	..	..	..	77,554*
„ Private Baths	..	..	..	..	5,287
Female Plunge Baths	..	..	..	..	29,234†
„ Private Baths	..	..	..	..	878
Mixed Bathing: Adults	..	..	..	..	5,626
„ Juniors	1,981
Contracts, Free Passes, Season Tickets, etc.	18,462

Total	139,021
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* This number includes 18,495 boys who are charged 1d., and are admitted after 4 p.m. on each week day except Thursday and Saturday.

† This number includes 9,834 girls who are charged 1d., and are admitted after 4 p.m., on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays, during the summer season.

The above figures show a decrease as compared with the previous year, due to the exceptionally cold weather experienced during the past year.

Periodic Analytical and Bacteriological tests have been taken by the Medical Officer of Health and the results have shown that the Purification Plant is functioning satisfactorily.

The tests rigidly conform with the standards required by the Ministry of Health.

In addition to the above, tests are taken three times a day by the Bath Superintendent to determine the residual Chlorine and Alkali content of the water.

The plans for the New Baths at Pemberton have been submitted to the Grants Area Committee, and a grant of £9,500 has been given towards the cost of the building, and it is hoped that an early start will be made on the erection.

During the past month, the Baths Committee have dealt with three applications from firms in the town who are desirous of forming Swimming Clubs for their employees, but owing to the congested conditions at the Central Baths, Millgate, these applications have reluctantly been turned down, but will be considered immediately the new branch Baths are erected.

The Ministry of Health have also given sanction for loan for the installation of a Russian Vapour and Zoto-Foam Suite at the Central Baths, Millgate, and from the many inquiries I have received from people in the town, for this particular class of Bath, I feel sure that it will be welcomed by the people who are undergoing a course of treatment in other towns.

Swimming is one of the most popular and enjoyable of modern sports furthermore, it has the advantage of being the most useful with regard to its value in the saving of others' lives and in addition it is superior to other sports in the promotion and preservation of health.

All physical exercises and especially swimming, have beneficial effects on the physique and the general health. Most forms of physical exercise have beneficial effects on the respiratory and circulatory systems, and this is specially true of swimming. For swimming "Aquatic respiration" has to be acquired and when it has been acquired, swimming becomes one of the best lung developers and can increase one's vital capacity to a great extent. The circulation is necessarily improved during exercise, and as a result the blood is purified, poisons and waste products are eliminated, and all the natural functions of the body are stimulated. The muscles are used and strengthened and they become more supple. In swimming the muscular system is developed more symmetrically, more so than in land sports. The muscles gain perfect strength while remaining soft and supple and undistorted, they acquire perfect "tone." Exercise ensures the suppleness of the joints as well as suppleness of muscle. Most sports demand a certain degree of poise and balance and swimming along with other sports trains the individual in this respect. Co-ordination of mind and body is required in all types of physical exercise, and this is very necessary, as the swimmer has to co-ordinate leg and arm movements, and also concentrate on breathing. Swimming also demands a certain skill in timing and judgment. This is necessary in such activities as diving for objects and other branches of diving.

Not only does swimming develop desirable physical and mental qualities, but it also develops what might be called moral qualities. In the first place, the novice has to overcome fear of water. Water is not man's natural element, and anything strange creates fear, and the cold water has a similar effect. To overcome this fear requires a certain amount of pluck, determination and endurance, particularly with regard to the cold water, and furthermore, the ability to swim creates a feeling of self-reliance, as the swimmer feels capable of saving his own and the lives of others.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

The Clerk to the Public Assistance Committee has kindly supplied me with the following information :—

<i>Year ending.</i>	<i>Borough of Wigan.</i>				<i>Amount paid in relief. £</i>
	<i>Average No. of families receiving relief.</i>				
31st March, 1935	1688	..	51,621
31st March, 1936	1851	..	58,728
31st March, 1937	1848	..	58,240
31st March, 1938	1657	..	50,549
31st March, 1939	1693	..	54,632

The Institutions provided are the Frog Lane Institution, for able bodied persons, also a number of old and infirm persons and children under three, which has 268 beds; the Billinge Hospital, Billinge, 376 beds. These institutions receive inmates from the whole of the old Wigan Union, which includes part of the County Area.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.

Mr. A. Clarke, the Clerk to the National Health Insurance Committee for the Borough, has kindly supplied me with the following information, with respect to treatment under the National Health Insurance Scheme.

	1934. 1st Jan.	1935. 1st Jan.	1936. 1st Jan.	1937. 1st Jan.	1938. 1st Jan.
Number of insured persons in Wigan, according to counts of Insurance Committee's Register..	37150	35400	36294	36716	37697
Number of prescriptions issued by doctors ..	157059	169660	178810	189058	187898
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Total cost of prescriptions issued	4932 15 11	5388 7 8	5728 8 7	6097 11 1	6136 11 10
Average cost per prescription issued.. ..	7·54d.	7·62d.	7·69d..	7·74d.	7·84d.

2.—VITAL STATISTICS, 1937—1938.

	1937.	1938.
Population estimated July 1st	83,190	82,530
<i>Births</i> —Males 711 } Total	1,354	1,363
Females 652 }		
Annual rate of births per 1,000 on Registrar General's estimated population.	16·27	16·51
Ditto for England and Wales	14·9	15·1
Ditto, 126 County Boroughs and great towns	14·9	15·0
Illegitimate births number 34 or ·41 per 1,000 of population, a percentage of	3·02	2·49
<i>Deaths</i> —Males 591 } Total	1,179	1,105
Females 514 }		
Corrected Death-rate, on Registrar General's estimated population	14·17	13·38
Ditto in England and Wales	12·4	11·6
Death-rate in 126 County Boroughs and great towns	12·5	11·7
Excess of registered births over deaths	175	258
Maternal Death-rate	2·81	2·10
Total deaths from seven principal Zymotic Diseases	37	44
Annual rate of mortality from seven principal Zymotic Diseases	·44	·53
Total deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years	10	6
Death-rate (per 1,000 births) from Diarrhoea and Enteritis	7·3	4·4
Infantile-rate (deaths per 1,000 births)	90	100
Ditto for England and Wales	58	53
Ditto for 126 County Boroughs and great towns	62	57
Deaths of infants under 1 day old (number)	21	20
Ditto 1 year (legitimate)	117	135
Ditto 1 year (illegitimate)	5	2

Births.—The number of births registered during 1938 is 1363, (males 711, females 652), the rate per 1,000 of the population being 16·51. The birth-rate compared with 1937 is ·24 higher. The illegitimate births number 34 or 2·49 per cent.

Stillbirths.—The following shows the number of stillbirths registered during the year 1938 :—

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	33	25	58
Illegitimate	1	2	3
Total	34	27	61

The Mortality-rate.—The deaths for 1938 number 1,105 (males 591, females 514), being an excess of 77 males over females. The recorded rate per 1,000 of the population per annum is 13·38 ; in 1937 14·17. The decrease in the number of deaths as compared with 1937 was 74—and the rate ·79 per 1,000.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.	
<i>Births</i> —(Legitimate) ..	1329	696	633	{ Birth rate per 1,000 population, 16·27
(Illegitimate) ..	34	15	19	
	<hr/> 1,363	<hr/> 711	<hr/> 652	
	Total.	M.	F.	
<i>Deaths</i> —	1,105	591	514	{ Death-rate per 1,000 population, 13·38.
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth .. ..	..	..	..	{ from sepsis .. 2 from other causes.. 1
Mortality of women in, or associated with child-birth, per 1,000 births (live and still):—				
Puerperal Sepsis .. ..	..	..	..	1·40
Other Puerperal causes .. ..	..	..	..	·70
				<hr/>
Total Puerperal mortality .. ..	..	..	..	2·10
Non Puerperal causes .. ..	..	..	..	—
Total Maternal Mortality .. ..	..	..	..	2·10
Infant-Mortality rate under one year of age per 1,000 births:—				
Legitimate 99 Illegitimate 58 Total 100				
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .. ..	..	..	..	15
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) .. ..	..	..	..	6
„ „ Diarrhoea (under two years of age) .. ..	..	..	..	6

INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

The number of Inquests held in Wigan during 1938 was 69, against 66 for 1937, and 62 for 1936, and the following verdicts have been recorded:—

1.	Natural Causes	—
2.	Accidents—burnt	6
	„ scalded	1
	„ colliery	8
	„ drowned	1
	„ falls.. ..	5
	„ railway	—
	„ falls downstairs	3
	„ knocked down.. ..	12
	„ others	17
3.	Suicides—hanging	2
	„ cut throat	1
	„ gas	1
	„ railway	—
	„ poison	1
	„ others	1
4.	Others	10
5	Murder	—
		<hr/> 69

There were two uncertified deaths in 1938, against two in 1937, and none in 1936.

TABLE OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1938 IN THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF

Causes of Deaths.	Deaths at the sub-joined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.												
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 3.	3 and under 4.	4 and under 5.	5 and under 10.	10 and under 15.	15 and under 20.	20 and under 35.	35 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and over
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	15	3	4	4	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	6	4	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	17	..	1	..	2	2	11	1	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	6
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	48	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	17	..	14	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	13	2	..	..	1	1	1	2	2	3	..	1	..
Syphilis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease..	113	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	57	44
Diabetes	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	5	5
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ..	65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	12	20	43
Heart Disease	226	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	3	10	..	70	127
Aneurysm .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Other Circulatory Diseases..	39	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	29
Bronchitis	63	5	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2	2	19	33
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	112	35	12	6	4	1	2	2	1	6	4	21	18
Other Respiratory Diseases	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	5	4
Peptic Ulcer	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	6	1
Diarrhoea &c.	7	6	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis.. ..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	1	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases ..	18	2	2	..	1	..	1	..	1	1	1	4	5
Acute and Chronic Nephritis.	39	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	4	21	9
Puerperal Sepsis	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Other Puerperal causes ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc... ..	71	69	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Senility	88	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	88
Suicide	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	2	1
Other Violence	40	4	..	..	..	..	2	2	3	7	6	8	8
Other defined causes ..	58	7	3	..	..	..	1	2	5	4	4	17	15
Causes ill-defined or unknown	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
TOTALS	1105	137	23	15	9	8	21	14	20	65	67	285	441

WIGAN, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DISEASES, AGES AND LOCALITIES.

Deaths at all Ages.

St. George Ward. 1	Lindsay Ward. 2	St. Catharine Ward. 3	St. Patrick Ward. 4	St. Thomas Ward. 5	Poolstock Ward. 6	Victoria Ward. 7	St. Andrew Ward. 8	Swinley Ward. 9	All Saints Ward. 10	West Pem- berton Ward. 11	North Pem- berton Ward. 12	Central Pem- berton Ward. 13	South Pem- berton Ward. 14	Total Deaths.
..
..	..	..	3	2	4	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	1	1	..	6
1	1	1	1	..	1	2	3	2	..	..	1	3	1	17
1	..	..	2	1	1	..	3	1	..	..	..	1	..	10
..
..
2	1	5	5	4	5	2	5	3	3	2	4	3	4	48
1	1	..	2	1	1	1	3	2	..	..	1	..	..	13
..
..
4	7	7	22	7	8	3	20	13	2	1	7	6	6	113
..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	1	4	1	2	12
1	2	5	7	2	3	1	13	8	2	6	4	5	6	65
7	18	18	23	14	14	10	33	25	5	6	18	21	14	226
..
..	4	3	4	2	3	2	6	8	1	2	1	1	2	39
4	2	5	9	4	2	2	17	7	4	3	1	1	2	63
7	7	8	17	6	2	9	27	5	4	1	9	5	5	112
1	1	1	2	1	1	..	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	11
1	..	1	1	2	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	1	..	9
2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	6
..	1	3	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	7
..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	3
..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
1	..	1	2	..	1	..	3	5	..	..	2	3	..	18
1	2	2	5	2	3	1	3	9	3	1	3	1	3	39
..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
2	3	3	10	4	6	6	7	4	1	3	10	8	4	71
6	5	6	6	4	3	6	15	9	3	1	13	7	4	88
..	..	1	..	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
1	2	2	1	5	3	2	9	2	..	1	2	7	3	40
3	4	2	7	1	5	2	7	9	5	2	3	8	1	59
..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
46	62	76	130	63	68	58	189	119	35	32	86	84	57	1105

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1938 AND PREVIOUS YEARS

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year. 2	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un- corrected number. 3	Nett.		Number. 6	Rate. 7	of Non- residents registered in the District. 8	of Resi- dents not registered in the District. 9	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.	
			Number. 4	Rate. 5					Number.	Rate per 1,000 nett births. 11	Number.	Rate.
1									10		12	13
1934..	84,750	1,467	1,477	17.42	1,002	11.69	143	192	99	67	1,051	12.40
1935..	84,500	1,438	1,425	16.86	1,107	13.10	141	201	139	97	1,167	.81
1936..	83,820	1,442	1,445	17.23	1,002	11.95	149	219	119	82	1,072	12.78
1937..	83,190	1,371	1,354	16.7	1,107	13.30	169	241	122	90	1,179	14.17
1938..	82,530	1,351	1,363	.51	1,037	12.56	171	239	137	100	1,105	13.38

The death-rate for each quarter is as follows :—

1938	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.
All Causes ..	17·31	13·20	10·76	10·87
Zymotics ..	1·03	·67	·14	·21

The Zymotic-rate, ·53 is ·11 higher than in 1937.

DEATH RATES, 1938.

Disease.	No. of Deaths.	Rate.
Typhoid and paratyphoid Fevers	—	—
Measles	15	·18
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	6	·07
Diphtheria	17	·21
Influenza	10	·12
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	48	·58
Other Tuberculous Diseases.. .. .	13	·16
Syphilis	—	—
General paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	—	—
Cancer, Malignant Disease	113	1·37
Diabetes	12	·15
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	65	·79
Heart Disease	226	2·74
Aneurysm	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases	39	·47
Bronchitis	63	·76
Pneumonia (all forms)	112	1·36
Other Respiratory Diseases	11	·13
Peptic Ulcer	9	·11
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	6	·07
Appendicitis	7	·08
Cirrhosis of Liver	3	·04
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	3	·04
Other Digestive Diseases	18	·22
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	39	·47
Puerperal Sepsis	2	·02
Other Puerperal causes	1	·01
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc... .. .	71	·86
Senility	88	1·07
Suicide	7	·08
Other Violence	40	·48
Other defined causes	59	·72
Causes ill-defined or unknown	2	·02
Total	1,105	13·38

DEATH-RATES FOR WIGAN DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS.

1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
15·01	13·24	14·02	13·34	14·34	12·40	13·81	12·78	14·17	13·38

AVERAGE FOR TEN YEARS, 13·65

NUMBER OF DEATHS IN DIFFERENT WARDS IN WIGAN, 1938.

Ward.	Ward No.	Census Population.	Death Totals.	Death Rate.
St. George	1	4,281	46	10·74
Lindsay	2	5,222	62	11·87
St. Catharine	3	6,929	76	10·97
St. Patrick	4	8,571	130	15·16
St. Thomas	5	4,183	63	15·06
Poolstock	6	4,775	68	14·24
Victoria	7	4,745	58	12·22
St. Andrew	8	14,085	189	13·41
Swinley	9	7,880	119	15·10
All Saints	10	2,750	35	12·72
West Pemberton	11	3,740	32	8·55
North Pemberton	12	6,605	86	13·02
Central Pemberton	13	6,129	84	13·70
South Pemberton	14	5,462	57	10·43
Totals .. ..	..	85,357	1,105	*13·38

*Death Rate is based on the Registrar General's estimated Population of 82,530

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The Mortality from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, namely: Small-pox, Scarlet Fever, Measles, Whooping Cough, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, and Diarrhoea, gives us a rate of ·53 per 1,000 of the population, against ·44 in 1937.

The deaths numbered 44 as against 37 in 1937.

The Zymotic-rate, .53, is made up as follows:—

DEATH-RATES PER 1,000:—

	1937	1938
Small-pox	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	Nil.	Nil.
Measles .. .. .	.05	.18
Whooping Cough .. .. .	.01	.07
Diarrhoea .. .. .	.12	.07
Enteric Fever	Nil.	Nil.
Diphtheria .. .. .	.26	.21

DEATHS AND DEATH RATES FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES FOR THE
PAST FIVE YEARS.

	Deaths.	Death Rate.
1934	10 ..	.11
1935	66 ..	.78
1936	36 ..	.42
1937	37 ..	.44
1938	44 ..	.53

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS SINCE YEAR 1876.

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death. Rate.	Infant Mortality.
1876	48.9	28.5	4.92	186
1886	38.7	22.1	3.1	174
1896	35.9	23.09	4.09	186
1906	32.6	17.61	2.61	160
1916	23.28	15.42	1.04	113
1926	20.03	13.13	.30	103
1938	16.51	13.38	.53	100

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1938.

CAUSES.	Sex.	All Ages.	0-	1-	2-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-
ALL CAUSES.	M.	575	85	8	17	20	14	28	38	56	108	125	76
	F.	501	50	13	15	12	18	23	28	36	77	126	103
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ..	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Measles	M.	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	10	3	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough ..	M.	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	M.	9	-	-	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	7	-	1	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Influenza	M.	10	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	3	2
	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
7. Encephalitis Lethargica	M.	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-
	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	M.	27	-	-	-	-	3	4	8	7	5	-	-
	F.	18	-	-	-	1	6	5	4	2	-	-	-
10. Other Tuberculous Diseases	M.	7	1	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
	F.	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
11. Syphilis	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. General Paralysis of the Insane. Tabes Dorsalis	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13. Cancer, Malignant Disease	M.	58	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8	27	16	4
	F.	55	-	-	-	1	-	-	8	8	14	16	8
14. Diabetes	M.	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
	F.	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	4	-
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage, Etc.	M.	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	7	15	7
	F.	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	12	10
16. Heart Disease ..	M.	103	-	-	-	-	1	4	3	6	32	33	24
	F.	117	-	-	-	-	2	3	7	6	23	50	26
17. Aneurysm	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
18. Other Circulatory Diseases	M.	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	11	7
	F.	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	7	3

**REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES
OF DEATH, 1938—Continued.**

[illegible]

3.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—The Wigan Branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses commenced activities in February, 1929. To commence with, the Staff consisted of two Nurses. The Staff now consists of a Superintendent and seven Nurses.

Midwives.—There were 31 midwives practising in the district on 1st January, 1938.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—The following Clinics and Treatment Centres are provided by the Corporation :—

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Municipal Buildings, Library Street, Wigan. | <p>Mainly consultative ; treatment to a very limited extent. Open Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, 2 to 4-30. Special Ante-Natal Clinic held second Friday in the month at 2 o'clock. Schools for mothers Wednesday afternoons. The Dentist attends on Tuesday afternoons for examination and treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and infants.</p> <p>Ante-Natal Clinic, 2 to 4-30 p.m. each Tuesday and Special Clinic second Friday in each month at 2 o'clock.</p> |
| 2. Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Billinge Road, Pemberton. | <p>Mainly consultative ; treatment to a very limited extent. Open Friday afternoons from 2 to 4-30 p.m. School for mothers on Thursday afternoons.</p> <p>Ante-Natal Clinic, alternate Monday afternoons at 2 o'clock.</p> |
| 3. Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Jackson's Square Scholes. | <p>Mainly consultative ; treatment to a very limited extent. Open Monday afternoons from 2 to 4-30 p.m. School for mothers held on Friday afternoons.</p> |

- | | |
|--|--|
| 4. Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Wesleyan Chapel, Worsley Mesnes. | Mainly consultative; treatment to a very limited extent. Open Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4-30 p.m. School for mothers also held on Monday afternoons. |
| 5. Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, St. Andrew's Mission Room, Woodhouse Lane. | Mainly consultative; treatment to a very limited extent. Open Tuesday afternoons from 2 to 4-30 p.m. School for mothers held on Wednesday afternoons. |
| 6. School Clinic, Municipal Buildings, Library Street, Wigan (See No. 1). | For minor ailments. A dentist is in attendance three mornings each week for inspection and treatment of school children. |
| 7. Orthopædic Clinic, Municipal Buildings, Library Street, Wigan. | For treatment of crippling defects. Open each Monday morning. Surgeon attends twice monthly. Cases from Ince and Hindley also attend. |
| 8. Tuberculosis Clinic, 14, Rodney Street, Wigan. | Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings and Friday evenings, as required. A dentist is in attendance on Wednesday mornings for the inspection and treatment of tuberculous persons.

Orthopædic clinic held each Wednesday afternoon when there is a masseuse in attendance. Surgeon attends on Saturday morning once every two months. |
| 9. Radium treatment of Cancer. The Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre. | A Special Clinic is held at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary for inspection and advice only, on second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Treatment is carried out at Manchester. |
| 10. Artificial Light Clinic, Royal Albert Edward Infirmary | For treatment of suitable cases, by arrangement. |
| 11. Venereal Disease Clinic, Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan. | Open Tuesdays and Fridays, 4 to 7 for males only, and from 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays for females and children. "Irrigations" by arrangement. "Inpatient" treatment is also available. |

Hospitals Provided or Subsidised by the Local Authority.—The following hospitals are provided by the Local Authority:—

Pemberton Hospital.	For treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis, 28 beds, four of which are reserved for the Lancashire County Council.
Whelley Sanatorium.	For Infectious Diseases (other than smallpox and venereal diseases), 76 beds.
Billinge Infirmary, Billinge.	For medical, maternity and mental cases. 376 beds. There is no resident medical officer. Under the control of the Public Assistance Committee.
Frog Lane Institution.	268 beds are available [chiefly for able bodied people. There is also a ward for infectious diseases. There is no resident medical officer. Under the control of the Public Assistance Committee.

The following hospitals and institutions are subsidised by the Local Authority, either by way of (a) an annual grant, or (b) payment for beds reserved for cases sent by this Authority.

Sankey Small Pox Hospital Near Warrington.	For treatment of smallpox. Payment of £230 per annum.
Leasowe Hospital.	Four beds reserved for treatment of surgical tuberculosis. 41/- per bed, per week.

Other Hospitals Available for the District:—

Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.	General Hospital. 180 beds. Replete with massage, electrical, orthopaedic, artificial sunlight, and X-ray Departments and pathological laboratory. A certain number of cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis are treated there, for which payment is made by this Authority. Cases requiring treatment under the Corporation's scheme for dealing with Puerperal Pyrexia are also treated there.
The Christopher Private Patients Home.	30 beds for Surgical and Medical cases.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers:—

St. Margaret's Home, Goose Green, Wigan.	Supported by charities and donations. Grant made by the Local Authority. Accommodation for babies and girls.
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Ambulance Facilities :—**(a). For Infectious Cases.**

Two motor ambulances are owned by the Health Department. In addition one motor vehicle is used for disinfection purposes.

(b). For Non-infectious Cases and Accidents.

Three motor ambulances used for accidents, etc., and one motor vehicle used either as an ambulance or prison van, owned by Local Authority. One ambulance owned by the Public Assistance Department, and one saloon car used for transporting mental cases.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

On 1st January, 1938, there were two nursing homes and one maternity home registered.

No action with respect to registration of maternity and nursing homes has been necessary during the year.

COST OF HEALTH SERVICES.

The nett cost of services controlled by the Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees for the year ending 31st March, 1938, was £30,825. This is a slight increase compared with £29,256 for the previous year.

HOSPITAL ACCOM-

<i>Hospital.</i>	<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Management.</i>	<i>Type of Case.</i>
Billinge Infirmary.	Billinge.	Public Assist- ance Com- mittee, County Borough of Wigan.	Mental. Medical Tuberculosis Maternity
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary.	Wigan Lane, Wigan.	Infirmary Board.	Surgical Medical Venereal Diseases Miscellaneous Eye Cases Side Wards Casualty.
Whelley Hospital.	Bradshaw Street, Wigan.	Hospitals Sub- mittee, County Borough of Wigan.	Infectious Diseases.
Pemberton Hospital. *	Billinge Road, Pemberton, Wigan.	Hospitals Sub- Committee, County Borough of Wigan.	Tuberculosis.
Institutions out- side Wigan.	Various.		Tuberculosis.
Biddulph Hospital.	Biddulph.	Lancashire County Council.	Orthopædic

* 4 beds (2 for male and 2 for female cases) reserved

MODATION PROVIDED.

Allocation of Beds.				Occupied during 1938.				Staff.
M.	F.	C.	Total.	M.	F.	C.	Total.	
58	60	—	118	56	56	—	112	1 Medical Officer, Part-time ; 1 Deputy Medical Officer, Matron. [Part-time. Assistant Matron and Home Sister. 6 Sisters, 1 Charge-nurse. 39 Assistant Nurses. 13 Male Nurses.
113	115	13	241	107	99	12	218	
3	5	—	8	3	2	—	5	
—	9	—	9	—	15*	—	15	
			376				350	
			*6 in	other wards				
69	37	—	106	—	—	—	—	
16	16	3	35	—	—	—	—	
3 M.	or F.	1	4	—	—	—	—	
—	—	26	26	—	—	—	—	
—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	
—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	
—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
			180					
—	—	—	76	—	—	—	50	Medical Officer of Health is Medical Superintendent. Matron. 3 Sisters. 14 Probationer Nurses.
Ministry's standard			44					
13	15	—	28	13	15	—	28	The Chief Tuberculosis Officer is Medical Superintendent. The Clinical Tuberculosis Officer is Medical Officer. Matron of Infectious Diseases Hospital also Matron of Pem- berton Hospital. Sister-in-charge. 2 Charge-nurses. 3 Probationer Nurses.
—	—	—	35	9	7	14	30	
—	—	7	7	—	—	4	4	

for patients from the Lancashire County Council Area.

4.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Borough is supplied with water for domestic and trade purposes from the Arley, Worthington and Pemberton Reservoirs, which have a total capacity of 278,000,000 gallons. In addition, approximately 70,000,000 gallons of water is pumped each year from Nicholson's Pit, Winstanley, and a further supply is obtained from the Bispham Shaft, Billinge. The Corporation also own reservoirs at Adlington, Pemberton, and Whitley, which are used only for compensation and trade purposes. The gathering grounds from which the greater part of the water is obtained is agricultural land. A complete survey of these gathering grounds was made by the Chief Sanitary Inspector during the year 1922, and later the Medical Officer of Health visited all places where pollutions were discovered, and reported on these to the Water Committee. The sources of the most serious pollutions have in the main been dealt with. Privy middens in rural districts have been converted to pail closets; many cesspools have been constructed, and are emptied at the expense of the Wigan Corporation. Drains which discharged into the tributaries of the main stream have been diverted into cesspools or septic tanks, and fences have been erected to protect the water from casual personal pollution. The gathering grounds from which the water is obtained are not owned by the Borough of Wigan, and from time to time difficulties will certainly arise with respect to keeping the water reasonably pure. In consequence, the Medical Officer of Health recommended that chlorination plants should be erected at each waterworks, and to-day four chlorination plants are in operation; one at Boar's Head Pumping Station to deal with water from Worthington Reservoir subsequent to gravity filtration, two at Edgewood to deal with the supply from Pemberton Reservoirs after filtration either by pressure or gravity filters, and one at Bispham to deal with water from the Bispham Shaft, or from Nicholson's Pit.

No water is therefore used which is not first chlorinated. Enough chlorine is added to give a residual of .1 parts per million, and constant tests are made to ensure this. The Water Committee have sanctioned the purchase of a suitable instrument which will continuously record on a chart the amount of residual chlorine. In addition, samples of the various supplies are taken each month and sent away for chemical analyses and bacteriological investigation, and a constant check on the purity of the water both before and after treatment is kept.

Apart from the local water supplies outlined above the Corporation obtain daily a further supply of 500,000 gallons per day from the Thirlmere Aqueduct of the Manchester Corporation, which quantity can be increased under agreement with the Manchester Corporation by a temporary supply of 350,000 gallons per day, if required.

There are approximately 21,500 dwellings within the Borough and with one or two exceptions, each one has its own supply of town's water. The total quantity of water supplied for domestic purposes is approximately 1,678,000 gallons per day, and with the exception of the drought years of 1929-1930, and 1933-1934 when restrictions in certain parts of the Borough

had to be put into operation, no difficulty has been experienced in affording a constant supply. Furthermore, the improvements recently carried out in the water distribution system have removed some of the difficulties which entailed the restriction of the supply during the drought years, and it is expected that in the event of a drought in the future these improvements will lessen the necessity of further restriction.

A few dwellings situate near the boundary of the Borough on the south side are supplied with water obtained from Billinge U.D.C.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The River Douglas and the streams running into it are the natural means of draining the Borough.

The River is badly polluted before entering the Borough and a certain amount of pollution occurs within. The Goose Green Sewerage Scheme has now been completed and the pollution which was occurring from that part of the Borough will, as a result of this scheme, cease.

The River Douglas is under the control of the Douglas Catchment Board who are carrying out a considerable amount of work in the dredging and straightening of the river, the result of which will be to give a better self-cleansing velocity to the river.

This authority also cleans the river, removes sludge, etc., from the bed as is required.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Practically the whole of the Borough is sewered and drained.

The sewage is conducted from the town by two main outfall sewers 27 inches and 36 inches diameter, to the Sewage Disposal Works at Hoscar, which are seven miles distant. Before leaving the town the sewage passes through two detritus tanks and also through coarse and fine screens, and at this point the storm water is diverted from the outfall sewers and is conveyed to the storm water treatment works at Pemberton.

Aluminoferric and lime are added to the sewage at Hoscar which then passes through Preliminary and Secondary Settling Tanks and a battery of circular revolving percolating filters. The effluent from the filters before it is discharged to the River Douglas is passed through humus tanks.

The Sewage Disposal Committee have approved certain extensions to the Sewage Works involving twelve extra percolating filters; alterations to humus tanks, etc., which will be begun this year.

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer, Mr. James Dove, A.M.Inst.C.E., for the following figures :—

During the year 1938 the following amounts of sewage have been treated at the Hoscar Moss and Pemberton Sewage Works :—

Pemberton Storm Water Works	290	million gallons.
Hoscar Bacteria Beds	1034	„
Hoscar Drainage Areas	177	„
Total Sewage Treated	1501	„
Total Solids, Detritus Tanks and Screen Chambers, Pemberton	3,939	tons.
Total Dried Sludge Recovered	1,898	„
Daily Average Dried Sludge Recovered ..	5.2	„
Weight of Dry Sludge per Million Gallons of Sewage	1.2	„
Rainfall for year	33.55	inches.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Mr. Smith, the Cleansing Superintendent, has supplied the following particulars :—

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.—The collection of Dry House Refuse and Trade Refuse is carried out by both Horse and Mechanical Transport, working as separate units, and by the Pagefield Container System, and the percentage of refuse collected by each system is as follows :—

Horse	43	per cent.
Pagefield Container	30	„
Mechanical Vehicles	27	„

89 per cent. of the refuse collected is disposed of by tipping.

NIGHTSOIL AND PAIL REFUSE.—This refuse (771 tons) is disposed of direct to farmers as manure. All pails are washed and disinfected after each collection.

TRADE REFUSE.—No fixed charges are made for the removal of this refuse, the shops and business premises in the town centre have a daily collection.

GULLEY CLEANSING.—During the year 20,004 gullies were emptied.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.—The following conveniences and urinals are maintained and cleansed by the department :—

- 5 Public Conveniences for Ladies and Gents., with attendants.
- 29 Public Urinals.

All urinals are cleansed and inspected twice per day, including Sundays.

GENERAL.—The new Depot in Frog Lane, comprising of Offices, Stores, Workshops, Garage, Stables, and Refuse Disposal Plant, was opened on May 12th.

The quantity of refuse dealt with by destructors during the year 1938 was 7,259 tons, and the quantity of refuse tipped was 23,255 tons. The Corporation have certain powers which require the owners or occupiers of property to provide, under certain conditions, receptacles of an approved pattern for refuse and already 20,940 ashbins have been provided.

166,920,000 square yards of streets have been swept during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

A general scheme for the conversion of pail closets and privy middens has been in progress in the Borough since March, 1923, with a view to placing all closet accommodation on the water carriage system.

On March 31st, 1923, the number of water closets in the Borough was 8,234 waste water closets 945, pail closets 7,081, privy middens 1,563. On December 31st, 1938, the estimated number of water closets in the Borough was 26,094, waste water closets 142, pail closets 73, privy middens, 48. The actual number of pail and privy closets which were converted to the water carriage system during the period April 1st, 1923, to December 31st, 1938, was 9,237, and during the same period 180 pail and privy closets were abolished, the total number dealt with being 9,417. 1,190 additional water closets were provided for premises at which the closet accommodation was deemed to be insufficient.

The majority of the pail closets and privy middens are at unfit houses or premises which are not connected to sewers.

The Local Authority commenced a scheme for the conversion of the waste water closets to water closets with proper flushing apparatus. This was inaugurated on April 1st, 1926, and since that date 803 closets have been converted. 67 of these were converted during the year 1938.

CONVERSION OF PAIL CLOSETS AND PRIVY MIDDENS.

The scheme for the conversion of pail closets and privy middens is now almost completed. The majority of the closets which have not been converted are in districts in which sewers are not available. A number also exist at premises which are deemed to be insanitary or are within an insanitary area.

During the year 1938, 63 visits have been made by Inspectors; 37 privy closets have been converted. In addition, 9 additional water closets have been provided. The estimated total number of water closets erected in connection with the scheme since January 1st, 1923, is 10,427.

Year.	Notices Served for Conversion of		Total.	Conversions carried out.		Abolished.		Total dealt with.	Notices Served under Section 36 Public Health Act.	
	Pail Closets.	Privy Closets.		Pail Closets.	Privy Closets.	Pail Closets.	Privy Closets.		Closets to be provided.	No. of Closets provided.
1923	1002	1205	2207	565	450	1	-	1016	106	76
1924	2689	649	3338	1908	1138	59	21	3126	230	152
1925	2707	640	3347	2640	573	44	2	3259	675	473
1926	228	99	327	1001	320	26	5	1352	53	293
1927..	5	15	20	203	29	12	-	244	9	90
1928..	11	12	23	63	40	2	3	108	19	26
1929..	-	2	2	2	21	3	-	26	9	13
1930..	6	1	7	20	1	-	-	21	2	15
1931..	31	2	33	33	2	-	-	35	4	5
1932..	23	1	24	23	1	-	-	24	1	1
1933..	25	6	31	25	6	-	-	31	6	6
1934..	5	4	9	4	4	-	-	8	4	4
1935..	4	3	7	4	3	-	-	7	2	2
1936	-	143	143	-	62	-	1	63	29	8
1937	-	30	30	1	58	-	-	60	9	17
1938	-	-	-	-	37	-	-	37	-	9
Total	6736	2812	9548	6492	2745	147	33	9417	1158	1190

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Mr. Martlew, Chief Sanitary Inspector, submits the following remarks, with a summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspectors:—

The town is divided into five districts. A District Sanitary Inspector is responsible to the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the constant supervision of each District. In addition, Inspectors specialise in the control of factories, workshops (including bakehouses), and shops.

NUISANCES AND OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING 1938.

	1938
Houses and premises inspected and visited <i>re</i> nuisances and complaints	2464
Re-visits to nuisances	6311
Other visits made	1597
Visits to premises (testing of drainage)	269
Nuisances discovered	5894
Nuisances abated	4730
Notices issued (preliminary)	892
" " (formal)	512
Letters issued <i>re</i> nuisances	1105

DESCRIPTION OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

Houses with defective roofs	806
" with damp and defective walls	1193
" with defective gutters and down-spouts	375
" requiring gutters or down-spouts	15
" with defective windows	446
" with defective ceilings	255
" with defective floors	315
" with unclean walls and ceilings	361
" with defective slopstones or waste-pipes	221
" in a filthy condition	9
" in a verminous condition	—
Defective surface of yards and passages	112
" drains	77
Blocked drains	140
Defective and foul gullies	31
" or blocked water-closets	82
" water-closet flushing apparatus	79
Want of water supply to water-closet	2
Insanitary condition of water-closets	—
Defective or blocked waste-water-closets	3
" closets (structure)	84
" ash-houses	—
" middensteads	—
Accumulation of manure and refuse	30
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	3
Defective chimney stacks and want of pots	120
Insufficient closet accommodation	2
Miscellaneous	1133

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the year 52 smoke observations have been taken. Visits have been made to premises, and instructions have been given to stokers as to the best methods of stoking and only causing a minimum amount of smoke. Following suggestions from officers of the Health Department many manufacturers are now using smokeless fuel. In four instances the time limit for the emission of dense smoke was exceeded, and in these cases warning letters were addressed to the offenders.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES LET-IN-LODGINGS

The common lodging houses and houses let-in-lodgings have been regularly visited, and are kept in a satisfactory condition.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

No. of common lodging-houses in the Borough	..	..	9
„ lodgers allowed nightly	..	..	462
„ visits	..	..	660

HOUSES-LET-IN-LODGINGS.

No. of houses on register	..	..	6
„ visits	..	..	180

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The number of offensive trade premises is seven. They consist of:—

- 1 fellmonger.
- 1 fat boiler.
- 3 gutscrapers.
- 1 gutscraper and fat boiler.
- 1 tripe boiler.

12 visits were made to these premises during the year 1938.

RAG FLOCK ACT.

All premises where bedding or furniture is manufactured are visited with a view to finding the kind of flock which is used. Five samples of Rag Flock were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination, and all but one conformed to the Rag Flock Regulations, 1912. In the case referred to, the excess of Chlorine was only slight.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, AND CANAL BOAT REGULATIONS.

No. of Boats that have been registered at Wigan..	..	354
„ still in use or available..	..	41
„ broken up, not in use or cannot be traced	..	313
„ Inspections	..	50
„ Notices issued	..	—
„ Notices complied with	..	—
„ Contraventions of regulations	..	—
„ Letters sent out	..	2

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Premises.	Inspections.	No. of Written Notices.	Occupier Prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power ..	115	1	—
Factories without mechanical power	185	—	—
Other premises under the Act ..	—	—	—
Total	300	1	—

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	No. of Defects.			No. of defects in respect of which prose- cutions were instituted.
	Found.	Re- medied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	4	4	—	—
Insufficient	3	2	—	—
Sanitary { Unsuited or de- Conveniences { fective	27	18	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	104	79	—	—
Total	140	105	—	—

SHOPS ACTS, 1912-1936.

No. of shops on register	2050
„ visits and observations (day)	1447
„ „ „ (night)	2225
„ „ „ (Sunday)	1381
„ „ re employment of young persons	9

REPORT OF OFFENCES.

Not exhibiting Closing Notices	13
„ „ Forms re Employment of Young Persons ..	38
„ „ Form “ K ”	—
„ „ Assistants' Half-holiday Forms	7
Sanitary accommodation not separate for sexes ..	4
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	5
Unsuited or defective sanitary accommodation ..	6
Provision of suitable accommodation for meals ..	2
Provision of suitable washing facilities	17
Retention of reasonable temperature	5
Lack of proper ventilation	—
Cleanliness of shop premises	5
Insufficient lighting to W.C.s	2
Other defects or deficiencies	32
Letters sent out	87

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933.

No. of " Listed Sellers " on register	..	..	..	..	53
,, visits to registered premises	..	..	..	..	52
,, contraventions discovered	..	..	..	..	7
,, letters sent out	..	..	..	..	7

PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

There are 26 places of entertainment within the Borough, each one is inspected periodically and reports are made on their sanitary condition before the renewal of licences.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

Mr. E. Richardson who devotes a portion of his time as Administrative Officer under the above Act, reports as follows:—

No. of premises under observation on 1st January, 1938	..	..	..	..	37
No. of premises found to be infested during 1938	..	..	..	..	86
No. of premises reported to be free from rats or mice during 1938	..	..	..	..	109
No. of premises under observation on 31st December, 1938	..	..	..	..	14
Total number of visits made during 1938	..	..	..	..	264

The occupiers of premises still infested are carrying out the requirements of the Act. During Rat Week, held in November, 1938, a special effort was made to exterminate rats and mice. 1,750 baits were prepared and distributed free of charge to persons in occupation of premises infested. Satisfactory results were reported.

5.— HOUSING.

The number of dwellings at the 1931 census was 18,573. The number of families was 20,190, or 1,617 more than dwellings.

The population at the 1931 census was 85,357 and the estimated population on July 1st, 1938, was 82,530

No. of Houses Built Since 1920.

<i>The number of houses built in :—</i>				<i>By Private Enterprise.</i>		<i>By Local Authority</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
1921	..	..	..	2	..	28	..	30
1922	..	..	..	18	..	107	..	125
1923	..	..	..	23	..	—	..	23
1924	..	..	..	24	..	50	..	74
1925	..	..	..	130	..	10	..	140
1926	..	..	..	73	..	106	..	179
1927	..	..	..	115	..	196	..	311
1928	..	..	..	89	..	182	..	271
1929	..	..	..	82	..	162	..	244
1930	..	..	..	34	..	135	..	169
1931	..	..	..	107	..	41	..	148
1932	..	..	..	102	..	—	..	102
1933	..	..	..	221	..	78	..	299
1934	..	..	..	284	..	304	..	589
1935	..	..	..	262	..	186	..	448
1936	..	..	..	236	..	193	..	429
1937	..	..	..	183	..	238	..	421
1938	..	..	..	280	..	362	..	642
Total				2265	..	2378	..	4643

2,265 built by private enterprise.

2,378 built by local authority.

During the period 1921-1938 about 1,247 dwellings have been demolished or ceased to be used as dwelling houses.

HOUSING ACTS 1930-1936.

During the year 1938, 221 Individual Unfit Houses occupied by 823 persons were reported to the Insanitary Houses and Conversions Committee.

From September, 1933, when the Five Year Programme was submitted, until December 31st, 1938, 1,480 dwellings occupied by 5,606 persons, have been dealt with.

On the 13th June, 1938, a scheme was submitted to the Insanitary Houses and Conversions Committee for dealing with 139 houses occupied by 472 persons, and for the erection of 122 houses on the Worsley Hall Estate. This scheme was approved by the Ministry of Health.

1,087 families have been re-housed in Corporation Houses situate on the Worsley Hall and Thicknesse Estates.

Many other families have voluntarily found other accommodation.

During the year, 254 dwellings have been demolished and 13 have ceased to be used for human habitation in consequence of action taken under the Housing Acts.

In addition 5 dwellings have been demolished in consequence of informal action.

The total number of dwellings demolished or ceased to be used for human habitation since the Five Year Programme was submitted is 1,031.

During the year 30 houses have been rendered fit for human habitation, and 34 back to back houses have been made into 17 through houses.

It is pleasing to note that no less than 96 dwellings have been erected by private enterprise on the sites which were previously occupied by insanitary houses.

1.—*Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected (for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts)	3077
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	14843
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925..	.. .. .	2765
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	5455
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.. .. .	213
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.. .. .	2284

2.—*Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	1235
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices : | |
| (a) By owners | Nil. |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners .. | 2 |

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 548 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices : | |
| (a) By owners | 516 |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners .. | Nil. |

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. | 179 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 254 |

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 1 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil. |

Undertakings were given that thirteen houses would not be used as dwellings in future. 5 houses for which undertakings were given have been demolished.

HOUSING ACT, 1935.

PREVENTION AND ABATEMENT OF OVERCROWDING.

During the year a further survey was made of all houses classified as overcrowded. From the figures in the following schedule it will be observed there has been a further reduction in the number of overcrowded houses.

Every effort was made to trace families who have vacated overcrowded houses with a view to preventing the overcrowding of other houses, but it was found impossible to trace several families and the figures given in the schedule as regards 1938 may not be absolutely correct as there may be cases with which the Health Department are not acquainted.

It has been deemed advisable to retain the services for the time being of a temporary employee who revisits the overcrowded houses, surveys new and altered dwellings, and carries out the clerical work entailed in keeping the register of artisan dwellings up-to-date.

The Local Authority are now erecting 50 houses to relieve overcrowding, and a limited number of Corporation dwellings which became vacant have been used for this purpose.

HOUSING ACT, 1935: OVERCROWDING.

(a)	1.	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	.. .. .	442
	2.	Number of families dwelling therein	.. ..	500
	3.	Number of persons dwelling therein	.. ..	3366
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	.. .. .	13
(c)	1.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	.. .. .	13
	2.	Number of persons concerned in such cases	..	83

The above figures do not include overcrowding which has been relieved by Slum Clearance.

(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil.
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6.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD. MILK SUPPLY.

MILK AND DAIRIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1922

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

The number of persons registered under the above enactments are as follows:—

Dairymen	128
Premises within Borough	79
Premises outside Borough	49
Purveyors of bottled milk only	492
Wholesale Dealers	61
(10 of whom are producers in the Borough.)	
Producers	24

Approximately 280 milch cows are kept in the Borough and the cow-sheds are kept in a satisfactory condition.

Number of visits to Cowsheds	100
Number of visits to Dairies	91
Number of visits to Milkshops	39

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

Number of persons licensed for the sale of pasteurised milk	39
Number of persons licensed for the sale and production of pasteurised milk	4
Number of persons licensed for the sale of Accredited Milk	8
Number of persons licensed for the sale and production of Accredited Milk	2
Number of persons licensed for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk	5

Since the Milk and Dairies Order came into force much time has been spent with a view to improving the milk supply.

Visits are made to dairies etc. for the purpose of examining milk on arrival.

During the year 144 samples were taken for the purpose of testing the amount of foreign matter contained in milk intended for sale in the Borough. These samples were obtained at dairies.

Mr. Woods, the Veterinary Inspector, makes the following report:—

1938 has been an uneventful year. Two cows have been dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order, but otherwise there have been no outbreaks under the Contagious Diseases Animals Act, although there have been several outbreaks of Sheep Scab in East Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire. There have been 43 outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease, but all in the southern half of England. Certain precautions which I have suggested at the Auction Mart have been readily undertaken and a little advice as to the early symptoms eagerly accepted.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF MILK.

RESULT OF EXAMINATION.

Type of Milk	Total No. of Samples	No. of Bacteria found per c.c.				Presence of B. Coli.			
		Under 10,000	10,000 to 100,000	100,000 to 500,000	Over 500,000	Absent in 1.0 c.c.	Present in		
							·01c.c.	·1c.c.	1.0cc.
Fresh Milk	77	18	41	13	5	14	39	16	8
Pasteurised Milk ..	14	11	2	1	—	9	1	2	2
Accredited Tuberculin Tested ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—

PRESENCE OF T.B.: INOCULATION TEST.

	No. of Samples submitted.		T.B. not found.		T.B. found.	
Milk	76	..	11
Pasteurised Milk	8	..	—
Accredited Milk	5	..	—
Tuberculin Tested	2	..	—

6 samples of pasteurised milk and 5 samples of accredited milk satisfied the Methylene Blue Reduction Test and also the Coliform Test, and 2 samples of tuberculin tested milk were submitted to the same tests and 1 was found to be below standard.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF ICE CREAM.

20 samples were submitted for examination, with the following results :—

NUMBER OF MICRO-ORGANISMS.

In 2 days at 37° c.				In 3 days at 22° c.		
under 1,000	1,000 to 10,000	10,000 to 50,000	over 50,000	Under 10,000	10,000 to 100,000	over 100,000
5	3	4	8	5	6	9

PRESENCE OF B. COLI.

Present in :							Not found in						
100 c.c.	10 c.c.	1 c.c.	1/10 c.c.	1/100 c.c.	1/1000 c.c.	1/10,000 c.c.	100 c.c.	10 c.c.	1 c.c.	·1 c.c.	·01 c.c.	·001 c.c.	·0001 c.c.
3	3	2	2	3	3	2	1	4	3	2	2	3	3

PRESENCE OF STREPTOCOCCUS FAECALIS (ENTEROCOCCUS).

Present in :					Not found in :				
1 c.c.	1/10 c.c.	1/100 c.c.	1/1000 c.c.	1/10,000 c.c.	100 c.c.	·1 c.c.	·01 c.c.	·001 c.c.	·0001 c.c.
5	7	3	1	2	2	5	7	3	1

McCRADY FIGURE, per 100 c.c.

B. Coli.

Enterococcus.

Nil.	Under 10.	10 to 1,000	1,000 to 5,000	5,000 to 10,000	10,000 to 20,000	20,000 to 100,000	Over 100,000	Nil.	100 to 1,000	1,000 to 5,000	5,000 to 10,000	10,000 to 20,000	20,000 to 100,000	Over 100,000
2	4	4	1	1	1	3	4	2	8	4	—	—	3	3

MEAT INSPECTION.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector and five District Inspectors are all qualified Meat Inspectors. There are within the Borough 16 slaughter houses, 13 are registered and three licensed. District Inspectors examine carcasses slaughtered within their own districts. Meat which has been slaughtered in rural districts, and which, there is reason to believe, has not been submitted for examination, is examined as far as possible immediately after its arrival in the town. Premises which come within the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, are frequently visited. Meat and offal condemned is destroyed at the Cleansing Depot, Frog Lane. In certain instances condemned carcasses have been allowed to be sent to a fat melter for manufacturing purposes.

In these instances the firm receiving this condemned meat have signed an undertaking that it will only be used for manufacturing purposes and they regularly forward special schedules of the quantities received.

Shops, stores and vehicles are constantly inspected.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES IN USE IN THE AREA.

			On 31st December, 1920.	On 31st December, 1938.
Registered			24	13
Licensed			1	3
Total			25	16
No. of visits to Slaughterhouses			..	4974
„ „ Markets			..	311
„ „ Butchers' and other food shops			..	872
„ Certificates issued (condemned food) ..			..	360

CARCASSES EXAMINED DURING THE YEAR 1938.

	Beasts.	Calves.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Total
Carcasses examined	12,895	1,774	16,042	1,7685	48,396
Carcasses totally condemned	300	16	43	5	364
Percentage totally condemned	2.32	.90	.26	.02	.75

The following meat and offal from private slaughter-houses was surrendered and destroyed, or sold for manufacturing purposes, during the year 1938 :—

		OFFAL CONDEMNED.										
	Whole Carcase and all Offal Condemned	Part of Carcase Condemned	Heads.	Lungs.	Livers.	Hearts.	Stomachs.	Spleens.	Kidneys.	Udders.	Mesenteries.	Skirts.
Affected with Tuberculosis :												
Beasts	255	356	2039	5632	1121	20	839	86	336	54	1315	1319
Calves	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs	19	—	1704	668	460	576	43	16	6	—	155	3
Sheep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Affected with other Diseases, etc. :												
Beasts	45	6	4	573	3697	3	—	—	479	628	—	—
Calves	13	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Pigs	24	2	3	296	110	52	1	—	20	—	—	—
Sheep	5	—	—	13	11	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	364	364	3750	7183	5401	653	883	102	845	682	1470	1322

Included in the above were 19 carcasses dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

REGISTRATION OF PURVEYORS OF MEAT AND PREMISES.

The Wigan Corporation Act, 1933, Section 36, contained powers for the compulsory registration of purveyors of meat and premises which are used or proposed to be used for the sale of meat. The number of premises registered at the end of 1938 was 128.

REGISTRATION OF ICE CREAM MANUFACTURERS AND PREMISES.

The Wigan Corporation Act, 1933, Section 34, contained powers for the compulsory registration of Ice Cream Manufacturers, Vendors and Premises.

At the end of 1938, 21 premises were registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream, and in addition 37 vendors were registered for the sale of Ice Cream

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

107 premises in the Borough used for the purpose of fish frying, all of which were kept under observation.

SUMMARY OF OTHER FOOD CONDEMNED 1938.

Other meat and offal	145 lbs.
No. of packages of wet fish condemned	542½
No. of packages of dried fish condemned	648
No. of rabbits, fowl and game condemned	1382
No. of packages of fruit and vegetables condemned ..	59
No. of packages of other food condemned	8

OTHER FOOD.

A large wholesale business in fish and other foodstuffs is carried on in and around the markets, and these premises are visited daily.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

247 samples, obtained under the above Act were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination:

It is pleasing to record that all the samples were reported as being genuine.

SAMPLES TAKEN DURING THE YEAR 1938.

<i>Articles.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Genuine.</i>	<i>Adulterated.</i>	<i>Not formal.</i>
Milk	119	115	4	42
Cream	7	7	—	7
Condensed Milk	1	1	—	1
Butter	13	13	—	—
Lard	6	6	—	—
Margarine	10	10	—	—
Dripping	2	2	—	2
Jam	6	6	—	6
Tea	10	10	—	2
Cheese	6	6	—	—
Skimmed Milk Powder	2	2	—	2

<i>Articles.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Genuine.</i>	<i>Adulterated.</i>	<i>Not formal.</i>
Coffee	10	10	—	2
Whiskey	3	3	—	3
Rum	3	3	—	3
Brandy	4	4	—	4
Gin	2	2	—	2
Sausages	7	5	2	6
Mixed Fish or Meat Paste	2	2	—	2
Pepper	2	2	—	2
Beans	4	4	—	4
Peas	2	2	—	2
Sugar	5	5	—	5
Corn Flour	2	2	—	2
Ice Cream Powder	5	5	—	5
Liquid Vita Food	2	2	—	2
Ice Cream	6	6	—	5
Milk Powder	1	1	—	1
Vanilla Flavouring	2	2	—	2
Gelatine Powder	3	3	—	3
Total	247	241	6	117

Milk and Cream not sold as Preserved Cream.

	(a.) <i>Number of Samples examined for the presence of a Preservative.</i>	(b) <i>Number in which preservative was reported to be present, and percentage of Preservative found in each Sample.</i>
Milk	119	Nil.
Cream	7	Nil.
Condensed Milk..	1	Nil.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.

All premises where imported articles of food are sold are kept under observation, and 215 visits were paid to wholesalers and retailers premises during the year 1938.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1926.

10 Samples of Feeding Stuffs and 11 samples of Fertilisers were taken and submitted to the Agricultural Analyst who reported that they were found to contain the full value as declared in the statutory statement, and in one or two cases there was a slight excess of one or other ingredient.

CHEMICAL WORK.

The Public Analyst has the honour to report as follows upon the duties of his office during the twelve months ending 31st December, 1938 :—

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST.

CHEMICAL LABORATORY,

The Cliff,

Higher Broughton,

Manchester.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

During the above period 247 samples of food, etc., were analysed, of which 8 were adversely reported upon, either because of definite "adulteration" or, alternatively, of a failure to comply with Regulation and/or conventional standards.

The samples comprised 114 milks, 13 butters, 10 each of tea, coffee and margarine, 7 each of sausage and cream, 6 each of cheese, lard, ice-cream and condensed milk, 5 each of sugar and jam, 4 each of brandy and baked beans, 3 each of dried milk, gelatin, whisky and rum, 2 each of gin and fish, etc., paste, 1 tinned strawberries and 17 miscellaneous samples.

The eight adulterated or non-standard samples comprised 4 milks and 2 each of sausage and gelatin.

The samples of milk (three taken informally) were reported against on account of their being deficient in fat, to the extent, respectively, of 4, 14, 15 and 16 per cent. Samples taken in connection with the three latter were found to have fat contents of from 3 to 4.2 per cent., and thus conformed with the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1901.

The following table shows that, apart from these four samples, the fat-content of the supply was of a high order, and, moreover, preservatives and colouring matter were again absent.

4 equal to 3.5 per cent.	contained under 3 per cent. of milk-fat.
25 equal to 22 per cent.	contained from 3.0 to 3.25 per cent. of milk-fat.
24 equal to 21 per cent.	contained from 3.26 to 3.5 per cent. of milk-fat.
23 equal to 20.2 per cent.	contained from 3.51 to 3.75 per cent. of milk-fat.
14 equal to 12.3 per cent.	contained from 3.76 to 4 per cent. of milk-fat.
24 equal to 21 per cent.	contained upwards of 4 per cent. of milk-fat.

The two samples of sausage were reported as not in order since they contained sulphur dioxide preservative to the extent of, respectively 130 and 160 parts per million, the presence of which was not declared at the time of purchase. The requirements of the British Pharmacopoeia were not complied with in the case of the gelatin samples, which contained excess acidity to the extent of, respectively, 32 and 70 per cent.

During the year several samples of ice-cream and ingredients of ice-cream have been examined. The complete lack of any standard composition of ice-cream left one with no option but to report the samples as genuine. In any case, in this commodity it is essentially bacteriological cleanliness with which the sanitarian is concerned and it is to be observed that the new Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which comes into force on the 1st of October next, gives additional powers in relation to ice-cream which should be of assistance in the prevention of "milk-borne" disease.

Apart from the two samples of sausage referred to, the requirements laid down in the various Public Health Regulations were complied with, whilst the samples of edible fat contained below the maximum amount of moisture permitted by appropriate Regulations, the butters being free from foreign fats. The samples of cheese had been derived from substantially whole-milk and the various samples of spirits were of the required statutory strength (35° U.P.). The miscellaneous grocery samples were all of sound commercial quality.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING-STUFFS ACT, 1926.

During the year 11 samples of fertiliser (including 1 "test" sample) and 10 samples of feeding-stuff (all taken informally) were examined. As regards the former, with the exception of a slight excess of Potash in two samples, the ingredients were in close agreement with the Statutory Statement.

All the feeding-stuff samples were in order, after making due allowance. (Limits of Variation).

WATER SUPPLY.

This year there has been a substantial increase in the number of samples of water submitted for chemical analysis, 43 having been examined in all. Limiting oneself to an analytical opinion, a sound potable quality has been consistently maintained. A special report was put in on the question of plumbo-solvency of the various supplies. With one exception, the reaction, gaseous content and saline composition are such as to militate against such action.

RAG FLOCK.

During the year 5 samples of Rag Flock were examined and all but one conformed to the Rag Flock Regulations, 1912, in that they contained under 30 parts of combined chlorine per 100,000. The excess of Chlorine, in the case referred to, was but slight and would scarcely have been worth calling attention to, had the figure kept within a tolerance of 10 per cent.

(Signed) S. ERNEST MELLING,

Public Analyst.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF WATER.

During the year 66 samples of water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, University of Manchester, for Bacteriological examination.

The results of these examinations are set out below :—

RESULTS OF EXAMINATIONS.

Source of Supply.	Aerobic Organisms.										B. Coli.										Bact per 100 c.c.		
	In 3 days at 22°c.				In 2 days at 37°c.					Not found in					Found in								
	Under 10	10 20	20 100	Over 100	Under 10	10 20	20 40	40 100	Over 100	·01 c.c.	·1 c.c.	1 c.c.	10 c.c.	100 c.c.	·1 c.c.	1 c.c.	10 c.c.	50 c.c.	100 c.c.	0	1—100	Over 100	
Edgewood and Nicholson's Pit	2	1	9	1	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	
Bispham and Nicholson's Pit	8	1	2	2	8	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	12	—	—	—	—	1	12	1	—	
Thirlmere	—	1	7	5	11	1	—	1	—	—	1	2	3	7	—	1	2	—	3	8	4	1	
Worthington and Thirlmere	—	2	10	1	11	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	11	—	—	1	1	—	11	2	—	
Worthington ...	1	1	1	2	—	4	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	3	—	1	1	—	—	3	1	1	
Nicholson's Pit	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	
Worthington, Thirlmere and Ince	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Bispham Shaft	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	
Edgewood	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	
Males' Swimming Baths (2nd Class).....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Females' Swimming Baths	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Bucklow Brook	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	

7.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1938.

Name of District—Wigan County Borough.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.													Total Cases notified in each locality (e.g., Parish or Ward) of the district.														
	At Ages—Years.													St. George	Lindsay	St. Cath	St. Patrick	St. Thomas	Poolstock	Victoria	St. Andrew	Swinley	All Saints	West Perm.	North Perm.	Central Perm.	South Perm.	
	At all ages	under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and over															
Smallpox ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3	—	—	21	25	26	30	10	12	24	84	19	12	11	18	25	27
Scarlet Fever ..	182	—	5	9	12	22	90	20	13	11	—	—	—	—	8	7	9	24	6	4	9	39	8	—	4	8	31	14
Enteric Fever ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	9	25	4	5	—	38	33	5	7	13	7	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	344	—	5	9	24	25	170	70	17	17	6	1	—	—	25	7	9	24	2	—	24	84	19	12	11	18	25	27
Pneumonia ..	171	19	21	21	9	13	32	9	8	12	7	14	6	—	8	7	9	24	6	4	9	39	8	—	4	8	31	14
Influenzal Pneumonia	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox ..	112	3	8	10	7	15	59	8	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	2	4	7	29	8	1	11	23	2	2	19	—	—
Erysipelas ..	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	5	11	—	—	3	3	2	1	—	1	—	7	2	—	1	2	2	1
Ophthalmia Neon.	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pul. Tuberculosis ..	73	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	8	26	15	15	3	—	1	7	6	6	2	2	1	12	6	3	1	6	15	5
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	30	1	—	1	3	2	6	6	3	4	1	2	1	—	—	—	2	4	3	—	2	3	3	1	2	4	3	3
Measles ..	1002	50	109	162	186	193	294	7	1	—	1	—	—	—	73	83	100	148	49	72	58	178	67	18	13	62	64	17
Puerperal Pyrexia	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	2	5	—	—	3	2	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ..	4	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	1978	78	148	212	242	270	655	126	56	91	38	47	15	120	142	164	250	105	105	101	375	168	41	40	117	174	76	76

Number of Notifications, compared with other years :—

Disease.	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Smallpox.. .. .	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Polio-Encephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	559	203	100	72	240	376	398	144	114	182
Enteric Fever.. .. .	5	1	1	5	0	1	3	1	5	1
Diphtheria	42	107	43	32	25	21	26	205	331	344
Erysipelas	40	42	38	41	52	51	47	48	28	26
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	8	5	9	4	2	3	2	1	1	4
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	1	11	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	0	3	4	9	4	2	0	4	4
Measles	917	1481	26	1565	961	429	2157	77	815	1002
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	115	91	102	83	79	80	61	60	73	73
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	38	52	62	43	56	45	43	43	34	30
Pneumonia	325	216	232	208	253	142	249	205	218	171
Influenzal Pneumonia	29	13	34	19	50	21	4	10	34	7
Dysentery	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Chicken-pox	525	489	556	162	240	164	57	126	120	112
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
Meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	14	22	3	8	9	9	12	12	6	17
Total	2628	2725	1212	2248	1988	1347	3063	932	1784	1978

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFICATIONS, 1938

Disease.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Tot.
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Scarlet Fever	9	9	16	14	16	16	21	12	31	8	15	15	182
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	46	27	43	32	24	25	23	14	7	30	43	30	344
Erysipelas	3	4	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	26
Ophthalmia Neon.	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	4
Phthisis	10	5	7	6	5	6	8	1	9	7	3	6	73
Other Tubercular Diseases	4	3	3	2	1	1	3	3	2	1	5	2	30
Pneumonia	28	42	22	10	18	16	4	3	8	3	5	12	171
Influenzal Pneumonia	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	7
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox	3	1	9	11	29	7	8	26	9	5	2	2	112
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	500	279	109	62	17	18	8	4	1	—	4	—	1002
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	—	1	2	1	2	4	2	1	1	—	17
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.. .. .	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	4
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	608	371	217	140	115	92	85	72	73	56	80	69	1978

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

Diphtheria was again very prevalent in the Borough. (See page 53.)

Cases of Scarlet Fever were not admitted to Hospital except in exceptional circumstances.

There was an epidemic of Measles, though less numbers than in previous epidemics, and the death rate was low. (See below).

MEASLES.

This disease has been locally notifiable since April 1st, 1925, and occurs in epidemic form frequently. Every case is visited by Health Visitors or School Nurses.

1002 cases occurred in 1938, and there were 15 deaths.

Number of cases notified 1002

Deaths 15

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Deaths from Measles	10	1	46	1	4	15
Death-rate	·11	·01	·54	·01	·05	·18
Schools Closed ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

CEREBRO SPINAL FEVER.

4 cases of Cerebro-spinal Fever were notified during 1938.

- Case No. 1. P.W., age 6 years.
 „ 2. N.M., „ 6 months.
 „ 3. G.M., „ 5 years.
 „ 4. M.B., „ 6 years.

All cases were treated at Whelley Hospital and were discharged recovered.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Enteric fever still occurs in the Borough, but it has ceased to be the scourge it used to be in Wigan. The following table gives the figures since 1896.

	<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Death rate.</i>
Yearly average for 20 years ended 1915	96	18·5	·23
Yearly average for 5 years ended 1920	36	6·6	·07
Yearly average for 5 years ended 1925	18	2·4	·02
Yearly average for 5 years ended 1930	5	1	·01
Year 1934	1	Nil.	Nil.
Year 1935	3	1	·01
Year 1936	1	Nil.	Nil.
Year 1937	5	Nil.	Nil.
Year 1938	2	Nil.	Nil.

INFLUENZA.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Deaths	8	28	17	42	10
Death rate	·09	·34	·20	·50	·12
Schools closed	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	29	Nil.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Information of cases of the disease is received from schools, during visits to homes by health visitors and school nurses, and occasionally from other sources. Each known case is visited.

The number of deaths and the death rates for the last five years are given below :—

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Deaths	3	5	18	1	6
Death rate	·03	·06	·21	·01	·07
Schools closed	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

VACCINATIONS.

The total number of vaccinations performed during 1938, by the two Public Vaccinators was 216.

SMALL POX.

5 cases of small pox occurred in the Borough during 1938.

On the 21st July a case was brought to the notice of the Health Department by the Medical Practitioner attending, and was seen immediately by the Medical Officer of Health.

A woman, aged 51, whose illness began with severe symptoms of backache and headache, had a copious though discrete rash. The distribution and character of the rash were typical of small-pox, and this opinion was confirmed by an Assistant Medical Officer of the Lancashire County.

She gave a history of visiting sister who along with her husband and two children, aged 21 and 19, were being treated for chicken-pox. The daughter, aged 19, commenced being ill on the 25th May, the father and mother on June 14th, and the son, aged 21, on 17th June. The father returned to work on 2nd July, the daughter on 30th June, and the son on 18th July.

These cases were visited by the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Henry Whitehead), along with a Medical Officer from the Ministry of Health, and from the history and the distribution of the remaining evidence of the rashes, it was clear that these had been cases of small-pox.

The son was working some distance outside the town and was found by the Lancashire County Authorities to be still infectious. He was, therefore, removed to hospital. Since then three cases contracted small-pox, presumably from him in the same works. These were mild and were removed to hospital.

The daughter worked outside the district, but no further cases from this source were reported.

All the usual precautions were taken, practitioners notified, all towns and districts in Lancashire informed, and the adjoining counties were communicated with. Chicken-pox was made notifiable in Wigan for six months and every district visited.

This was the report issued at the time and no further cases occurred in Wigan.

RETURN TO BE MADE ON OR BEFORE THE 9TH OF FEBRUARY, 1939, BY THE VACCINATION OFFICERS OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF WIGAN
RESPECTING THE VACCINATION OF CHILDREN WHOSE BIRTHS WERE REGISTERED FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, INCLUSIVE.

Registration Sub-Districts comprised in the Vaccination Officer's District.	1	Number of Births returned in the "Births List Sheets" as registered from 1st January to 31st December.										Number of these Births duly entered by 31st January, in Columns I., II., IV., and V. of the "Vaccination Register" (Birth List Sheets), viz.:					Number of these Births which on 31st January, remained unentered in the "Vaccination Register" on account of				Number of these Births remaining on 31st January, neither duly entered in the "Vaccination Register," (Columns 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, of this Return), nor temporarily accounted for in the "Report Book" (columns 8, 9 and 10 of this Return).	* Total number of Certificates and copies of Certificates of Successful Primary Vaccination of Children under 14 received during the Calendar year.	Number of Statutory Declarations of Conscientious Objection actually received by the Vaccination Officer irrespective of the dates of birth of the children to which they relate, during the Calendar year.
		Col. I.	Col. II.		Col. IV.	Col. V.	Col. I.	Col. II.	Col. III.	Col. IV.	Col. V.	Col. I.	Col. II.	Col. III.	Col. IV.	Col. V.							
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13										
WIGAN WEST ..	337	37	1	-	-	275	18	4Refused	-	2	-	57	301										
WIGAN EAST ..	518	124	-	-	316	40	7	6	6	10	15	134	338										
WIGAN CENTRAL	516	108	-	-	369	27	1	-	-	7	4	101	306										
TOTAL ..	1,371	269	1	-	960	85	8	6	19	19	19	292	945										

9th February, 1939.

NOTE.—(a) The total of the figures in columns 3 to 11 should agree with the figure in column 2. Any cases of children successfully vaccinated after the declaration of conscientious objection had been made should be included in column 6, and not in column 3. The number of such cases should be inserted here :— None.

(b) The figures in columns 2 to 11 should not include re-registered births or cases of children born in other districts.

* The total in this column should be the number of certificates and copies of certificates of successful primary vaccination of children under 14, actually received during the year, including any relating to births registered in previous years. The total thus given should include the Certificates of successful primary vaccination of which copies have been sent to Vaccination Officers of other Districts. The total number of copies of Certificates for the year sent to other Vaccination Officers should be stated here :—24

DIPHTHERIA.

During the year Diphtheria continued to be prevalent in the Borough, and this was the experience in many districts all over the country. 344 cases were notified in Wigan, 17 of which died. This is a case mortality of 4.9 per hundred.

Free preventive inoculation has been offered since December, 1936, for children of pre-school and school age, *but it is to be deplored that the response has been very disappointing*, although parents have received forms taken home by school children pointing out the advantages of inoculation and giving them an opportunity of signing consents.

A talk was given by the Medical Officer of Health to the senior teachers of the schools explaining the advantages of inoculation, and asking for their co-operation.

Children up to 8 years of age are given A.P.T. in two fortnightly doses, and those over 8 receive T.A.F. in three fortnightly doses. Since December, 1936, to end of 1938 :—

No. of acceptances under 8	473
No. of acceptances over 8	365
No. completed	1058

The number of school children in the Borough is approximately 12,000, and over 6,000 of pre-school age, so the percentage of children inoculated is very small indeed. It is important to note that *no case who has had the full immunisation inoculations has contracted Diphtheria.*

Of the 344 cases notified 342 were removed to Whelley Hospital for treatment. In addition to these 116 cases of diphtheria were received from outside districts. Thus a great amount of difficult extra work has been done at this hospital. Although many of the cases were late untreated ones, and many of the “gravis” type, the results were very satisfactory.

The Medical Officers and Nursing Staff have been continuously vigilant and search for carriers is constantly made in the schools. Many throat and nose swabs have been taken and positive cases discovered and sent to hospital. Several children attending Clinics have been found positive and isolated in hospital until negative.

Additional Preventative Measures :

Recommendations were made through the Education Authority to the Head Teachers of Schools :—

1. All teachers and senior children to gargle every morning from *own* drinking vessel. There must be no interchange of such vessels. Compound Glycerine of Thymol B.P.C., *diluted* a part of this to four parts of water.

2. Each child should have a separate drinking vessel, kept separately and labelled, otherwise automatic fountains should be installed.

3. Each child should have a separate towel labelled and kept separately. No child to use another person's towel or a towel for common use.

4. Pencils, pens, chalks, paint brushes or other writing material, or anything which might carry germs from one to the other, to be kept separately, and each child to have his or her own, and not borrow.

5. Teachers in the schools most affected, could help to get knowledge of suspicious cases early if they would kindly look at the throats of the children in the junior schools, three times a week using a wooden spatula for each child. Such spatula to be used once only and then destroyed. If any white deposit is seen on the throat, the child should be sent to the Clinic for examination.

Anti-toxin can be obtained free of charge by practitioners at:—

The Pemberton Hospital. (Tel. Pemberton 82314.)

The Pemberton Police Stations.

The Wigan Police Station (Telephone 2891).

Whelley Sanatorium (Telephone 3691)

Public Health Department (Telephone 2243).

CHICKEN POX.

Chicken-pox was made compulsorily notifiable in the Borough on 31st July, 1938. All cases are visited by the Medical Officer of the Department, in order to confirm the diagnosis, and were again visited later by a School Nurse (in cases of school age), and a re-admission certificate issued when the child was free from infection.

112 cases of Chicken Pox were reported. These were visited by a Medical Officer.

SCARLET FEVER.

There is an increase in the number of cases, several have been of a severe type. There were 182 cases notified, 32 of which were admitted to hospital.

The treatment of severe cases in hospital by antiscarlatinal serum has been very successful.

SUMMER DIARRHOEA.

The following table gives particulars of deaths from Summer Diarrhoea since the year 1883.

Average for the ten years	1883—1892	79·5
” ” ” ”	1893—1902	93·0
” ” ” ”	1903—1912	99·0
” ” ” ”	1913—1922	61·5
” ” ” ”	1923—1932	15·1

The number of deaths for the year 1938 was 6.

Enquiries have been made in each of these cases.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

No cases were notified during 1938.

ERYSIPELAS.

Number of cases notified	26
Number of deaths	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (PREVENTION) ACTS, Etc.

A high-pressure disinfecter is used for the purpose of the disinfection and disinfestation of clothing, bedding, and other articles.

No. of houses disinfected	841
„ rooms disinfected	1379
„ beds disinfected	1115
„ mattresses disinfected	76
„ sheets and quilts disinfected	5154
„ other articles disinfected	5265
„ premises cleansed and limewashed after infectious disease	—
„ visits to houses <i>re</i> limewashing and cleansing, &c. ..	1
„ „ „ infectious disease	816
„ letters sent out <i>re</i> infectious disease	53
„ „ „ limewashing	—
„ library books disinfected	203
„ schools disinfected	10

DISINFECTION.

All infected bedding and clothing is treated in a high-pressure steam disinfecter on the Washington-Lyons principle, which is situated within the grounds of the Whelley Infectious Diseases Hospital. There is a cleansing station at the same hospital, quite apart from the wards, for the cleansing of verminous persons. It is fitted up with baths and dressing rooms, and the clothing is disinfected in the high pressure steam disinfecter.

An efficient staff of four disinfectors deal with the disinfection of dwelling houses. Rooms are disinfected as a routine after cases of all infectious diseases including tuberculosis, with the exception of measles and whooping cough.

Disinfection of rooms has been criticised, and in fact described as a useless procedure. Assuming that disinfection does not totally destroy the infecting organisms, it does impress the persons concerned of the necessity for cleanliness and care, and ensures a thorough scrubbing and cleansing of the rooms, which is doubtless of great hygienic value, especially in dirty houses.

There is no doubt that steam disinfection of bedding is a valuable preventive measure.

DISINFESTATION.

A scheme for the disinfestation of furniture and bedding belonging to persons who are to occupy dwellings controlled by the local authority is in operation. A furniture van was purchased and is used for the disinfestation of furniture, etc., by means of hydro-cyanide gas. This process is applied by contractors who specialise in the work. A skilled furniture packer is employed. In all cases where it is known or suspected that the premises are verminous the process of disinfestation is carried out before persons are allowed to occupy Corporation dwellings. The furniture from 335 houses was treated by this process during the year.

Bedding from premises infested with vermin is either destroyed or treated in a steam disinfectant. In 31 instances bedding was supplied in lieu of that which was destroyed on account of being unfit for further use. In addition 60 houses found to be infested with vermin were fumigated on one or more occasions during the year. A supply of vermicide was provided along with the loan of suitable sprays for further treatment of these and other premises.

DISTRIBUTION OF DISINFECTANTS.

Disinfectants are provided free to the occupiers of houses where infectious disease has occurred, and in cases where there are exceptional circumstances. Other persons who desire supplies are charged a small amount to meet the cost of the disinfectant.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

Each month 2,000 copies of the journal "Better Health" are distributed in the district.

Classes for mothers are held each week at the various Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

Lectures on various health subjects are given from time to time in the town.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS AND MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The Medical Officer of Health examined 207 Corporation employees during the year 1938. The number of persons examined under the Workmen's Compensation Acts is very high, owing to the establishment of a Works Department.

LABORATORY WORK.

The following specimens were submitted for examination during 1938 :—

	<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Swabs for Diphtheria	445	1529	1474
Widal tests for enteric	5	5	10
Fæces and urine for enteric	2	10	12
Cerebro spinal fluid	1	3	4
Naso-Pharyngeal Swabs	—	8	8
Wassermann Tests for V.D.	193	655	848
C.S.F. (V.D.)	3	20	23
Tests for gonococci	3	19	22
Milk (T.B.)			91
Milk (bacteria count)			93
Milk for B. Coli			93
Water (bacteriological)			66
Water (chemical)			43
Ice Cream			20
Food and Drugs samples			247
Total examinations			3054

HOSPITAL FOR ACUTE INFECTIOUS CASES, WHELLEY.

76 Beds.

(44 beds based on Ministry's recommendation of 144 sq. ft. per bed).

STAFF IN 1938.**Matron.**

3 Sisters.	1 Cook.
14 Probationers	4 Ward-maids.
1 Laundress.	1 Gardener.
5 House-maids	1 Assistant Gardener.
	2 Porters.

The Medical Officer of Health personally attends the patients.

The majority of cases admitted to Whelley Hospital are from the County Borough, but many are sent in from surrounding districts, including: Aspull and Haigh, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Hindley, Ince, Orrell, Standish, Upholland and the Wigan Rural area.

The accommodation available has been used to a large extent to admit the increased number of cases of Diphtheria. It was found necessary to arrange for 6 cases of Scarlet Fever to be admitted to the Ince Isolation Hospital.

	Notifications	Removed to Whelley Hospital.		Died in Whelley Hospital.	
		Wigan patients.	Out-dist. patients	Wigan patients.	Out-dist. patients.
Small Pox	5	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	182	32	7	..	..
Enteric Fever	1	1	2	..	1
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup..	344	342	116	13	11
Pneumonia	171	2	..	1	..
Influenzal Pneumonia	7	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox	112	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas.. .. .	26	2	2	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	4	1	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	73	..	..	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	30	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	1002	..	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	17	..	..	..	..
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ..	4	4	2	..	..
Dysentery.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
Others .. .. .	..	7	..	..	..
Totals	1978	391	129	14	12

Whelley Hospital.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet.	Enteric.	Others.	Total.
In-patients, Jan. 1, 1938 ..	56	—	—	1	57
Admitted in 1938	458	39	3	20	520
Discharged „	450	35	1	19	505
Died „	24	—	1	1	26
In-patients, Jan. 1, 1939 ..	40	4	1	1	46

REVISIONS OF DIAGNOSES OF CASES TREATED AT WHELLEY SANATORIUM.

Admitted as suffering from :

Revised diagnosis :

1 Case of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis 1 Broncho Pneumonia

1 Case of Diphtheria 1 Bronchitis

1 Case of Diphtheria 1 Measles and Diphtheria

1 Case of Scarlet Fever 1 Measles

2 Cases of Diphtheria 2 Suppurating Tonsillitis

1 Case of Diphtheria 1 Whooping Cough and Diphtheria

2 Cases of Diphtheria 2 Whooping Cough

8.—OTHER DISEASES.

BRONCHITIS.

					1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Deaths	..	..	..	..	92	92	94	95	63
Rates	..	..	..	..	1.08	1.09	1.12	1.14	.76

PNEUMONIA.

					1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Deaths	..	..	..	..	79	113	89	101	112
Rates	..	..	..	..	.93	1.33	1.06	1.21	1.36

OTHER DISEASES OF RESPIRATORY ORGANS.

					1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Deaths	..	..	..	..	12	12	19	10	11
Rates	..	..	..	..	.14	.14	.22	.12	.13

TOTAL OF THESE THREE RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

					1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Deaths	..	..	..	..	183	217	202	206	186
Rates	..	..	..	..	2.15	2.56	2.40	2.47	2.25

CANCER.

					1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Deaths	..	..	..	..	110	114	125	127	113
Rates	..	..	..	..	1.29	1.35	1.49	1.53	1.37

DEATHS FROM CANCER.

FIGURES FOR LAST 20 YEARS.

Year.	No. of Deaths.		Year.	No. of Deaths.	
1919	53	} 315	1929	77	} 486
1920	83		1930	95	
1921	56		1931	105	
1922	59		1932	107	
1923	64		1933	102	
1924	69	} 406	1934	110	} 589
1925	99		1935	114	
1926	81		1936	125	
1927	76		1937	127	
1928	81		1938	113	

SCHEME FOR RADIUM TREATMENT OF CANCER CASES.

Following recommendations of the Ministry of Health (Circular 1276) the Corporation of Wigan have made arrangements with the Wigan Infirmary and the Manchester and District Radium Institute for the treatment of suitable cases of cancer by radium. The Wigan Infirmary for this purpose is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre. Treatment is carried out at Manchester.

This scheme applies only to cases resident in the County Borough of Wigan.

9—TUBERCULOSIS.

ARTIFICIAL PNEUMOTHORAX.

During 1938 Artificial Pneumothorax treatment was performed in 3 new cases. 223 refills were carried out in these and other cases.

68 injections of Gold Compound were given and 30 injections of Calcium compound.

THE STAFF AT PEMBERTON HOSPITAL.

The Chief Tuberculosis Officer is Medical Superintendent.

The Clinical Tuberculosis Officer is Medical Officer.

Matron of Infectious Diseases Hospital is also Matron of Pemberton Hospital.

A Sister-in-charge.

Two Charge Nurses.

Three Probationer Nurses.

Domestic Staff: Cook, Kitchen Maid, House Maid, Ward Maid Gardener and Porter.

The following table shows the number of cases admitted to Pemberton Hospital during the year:—

	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.
Borough cases...	26	29	2	57
County cases ...	6	2	—	8
Total... ..	32	31	2	65

AFTER-CARE.

There is in Wigan an After-Care Committee. The objects of this Committee are briefly:—

- (1) To provide extra nourishment, mainly in the form of milk.
- (2) To help in providing extra clothing needed by patients when they go to a sanatorium; also to provide clothing for necessitous tuberculous cases at home.
- (3) To loan bedsteads, bedding, etc., where, in the opinion of the officers of the Committee, this is desirable, either for the greater comforts of the patients, or for their better isolation.
- (4) Visiting and friendly advice.
- (5) Any other help required by tuberculous persons.
- (6) To assist in educating public opinion in matters of health especially in regard to tuberculosis.

The Clinical Tuberculosis Officer acts as an honorary Medical Officer to this Committee, which provides extra nourishment in the form of milk and eggs, etc., on his recommendation.

During the year 1938, 112 received milk, 38 persons were assisted with new clothing provided by the Committee; seven families received clothing given by friends and members of the Committee, and one patient was loaned a bed rest and bath chair.

The Dispensary makes an annual grant of £100, and the Public Assistance Committee subscribes £50 annually. An important part of the work of an After-care Committee is to help in securing suitable work for those sufficiently recovered to undertake it. The local employers have frequently found light work for tuberculous persons but of late years the light work has been done by those in receipt of compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

The members of the After-care Committee visit the homes of the patients and assist in educating public opinion in matters of health.

73 Disinfections of the homes of tuberculous persons were carried out during the year

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
1-	1	-	5	1	-	-	1	1
5-	1	-	4	2	-	-	1	-
10-	-	4	3	3	-	1	1	1
15-	1	7	2	1	-	3	1	1
20-	10	2	-	1	3	3	1	-
25-	7	7	1	2	5	6	-	2
35-	10	5	-	1	9	4	-	-
45-	8	2	1	-	6	2	-	-
55-	4	1	-	1	6	-	1	-
65 and upwards	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total ..	45	28	17	13	29	19	7	6

The number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 48, against 53 in 1937, and 48 in 1936. The number of deaths from other tubercular affections is 13, against 14 in 1937 and 13 in 1936.

The rates are as follows:—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis58 per 1,000 of population.

Other Tuberculous Diseases .. .16 „ „

If taken together as tuberculous affections, we have 61 deaths, or a rate of .74 per 1,000 of the population.

The deaths occurred in the following Wards:—

Wards	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Other Tubercular Diseases.	Total.
No. 1—St. George	2	1	3
No. 2—Lindsay	1	1	2
No. 3—St. Catharine	5	-	5
No. 4—St. Patrick	5	2	7
No. 5—St. Thomas	4	1	5
No. 6—Poolstock	5	1	6
No. 7—Victoria	2	1	3
No. 8—St. Andrew	5	3	8
No. 9—Swinley	3	2	5
No. 10—All Saints	3	-	3
No. 11—West Pemberton	2	-	2
No. 12—North Pemberton	4	1	5
No. 13—Central Pemberton	3	-	3
No. 14—South Pemberton	4	-	4
Totals	48	13	61

TUBERCULOSIS.**CASES NOTIFIED.**

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Pulmonary	80	61	60	73	73
Other forms of Tuberculosis	44	43	43	34	30
Total	124	104	103	107	103

DEATHS.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Phthisis	69	50	48	53	48
Other forms of Tuberculosis	17	15	13	14	13
Total	86	65	61	67	61

DEATH RATES.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Phthisis	·81	·60	·57	·64	·58
Other forms of Tuberculosis	·20	·18	·15	·17	·16
Total	1·01	·78	·72	·81	·74

				Total Cases Notified	Total Deaths
Pulmonary :—Males .. .. .	..	..	..	45	29
Females .. .. .	..	..	..	28	19
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	73	48
Non-Pulmonary :—Males .. .. .	..	..	..	17	7
Females .. .. .	..	..	..	13	6
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	30	13
Fatal Cases of Tuberculosis :—					
Notified Cases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	48
Non-notified .. .. .	..	..	..	..	13
Total deaths .. .. .	..	..	..	..	61

The ratio of non-notified deaths from Tuberculosis to notified deaths is as 13 is to 61, or 21·31% of the total.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WIGAN.

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1930.

SUMMARY OF NOTIFICATIONS DURING THE PERIOD FROM THE 1st
JANUARY, 1938, TO THE 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

Formal Notifications.

Age periods.	Number of Primary Notifications of new cases of tuberculosis.											Total (all ages).	Total Notifications
	0—	1—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—		
Pulmonary Males	-	1	1	-	1	10	7	10	8	4	3	45	46
Pulmonary Females ..	-	-	-	4	7	2	7	5	2	1	-	28	29
Non-pulmonary Males ..	-	5	4	3	2	-	1	-	1	-	1	17	19
Non-pulmonary Females ..	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	1	-	1	-	13	13

SUPPLEMENTAL RETURN.

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH DURING THE ABOVE-MENTIONED PERIOD, OTHERWISE THAN BY FORMAL NOTIFICATION.

Age Periods.	0—	1—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	Total.
Pulmonary Males ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4	2	-	10
Pulmonary Females ..	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	5
Non-Pulmonary Males ..	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Non-Pulmonary Females..	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	5

THE SOURCE OR SOURCES FROM WHICH INFORMATION AS TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CASES WAS OBTAINED SHOULD BE STATED BELOW :—

Source of Information.	No. of Cases.	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Death Returns —from local Registrars	7	3
—transferable deaths from Registrar General	2	3
Posthumous Notifications	-	-
" Transfers " from other areas (other than transferable deaths)	6	2
Other Sources if any (specify)	-	-

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WIGAN.

RETURN SHOWING THE WORK OF THE DISPENSARY
DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Diagnosis.	Pulmonary.				Non-Pulmonary.				Total.				Grand Total.
	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
A.—New Cases examined during the year (exclud- ing contacts) :—													
(a) Definitely tuberculous..	38	22	2	3	3	2	6	6	41	24	8	9	82
(b) Diagnosis not completed ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	3	1	12
(c) Non-tuberculous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	26	24	22	106
B.—Contacts examined during the year :—													
(a) Definitely tuberculous..	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	4
(b) Diagnosis not completed ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Non-tuberculous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	12	18	13	50
C.—Cases written off the Dispensary Register as													
(a) Recovered ..	—	1	3	—	—	1	4	3	—	2	7	3	12
(b) Non-tuberculous (including any such cases previously diagnosed and entered on the Dis- pensary Register as tuberculous ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44	38	43	37	162
D.—No. of Persons on Dispensary Register on Dec. 31st :—													
(a) Definitely tuberculous ..	127	101	9	12	50	40	63	41	177	141	72	53	443
(b) Diagnosis not completed.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	3	1	12

1.	Number of cases on Dispensary Register on January 1st	468
2.	Number of cases transferred from other areas and cases returned after discharge under Head 3 in previous years	6
3.	Number of cases transferred to other areas, cases not desiring further assistance under the scheme, and cases "lost sight of"	56
4.	Cases written off during the year as Dead (all causes) ..	43
5.	Number of attendances at the Dispensary (including Contacts)	3,606
6.	Number of Insured Persons under Domiciliary Treatment on the 31st December	55
7.	Number of consultations with medical practitioners :	
	(a) Personal	67
	(b) Others	215
8.	Number of visits by Tuberculosis Officers to homes (including personal consultations)	72
9.	Number of visits by Nurses or Health Visitors to homes for Dispensary purposes	2,020
10.	Number of	
	(a) Specimens of sputum, etc., examined	368
	(b) X-ray Examinations made in connection with Dispensary work	318
11.	Number of "Recovered" cases restored to Dispensary Register, and included in A (a), and A (b) above. None.	
12.	Number of "T.B. plus" cases on Dispensary Register on December 31st	128

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WIGAN.

RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS.

(A) RETURN SHOWING THE EXTENT OF RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT AND OBSERVATION DURING THE YEAR 1938 IN INSTITUTIONS (OTHER THAN POOR LAW INSTITUTIONS) APPROVED FOR THE TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.

	In Insti- tutions on Jan 1.	Admitted during the year.	Dis- charged during the year.	Died in the Insti- tutions.	In Insti- tutions on Dec. 31.
No. of Doubtfully Tuberculous Cases admitted for Observation:					
Adults: M.	-	2	2	-	-
F.	-	2	2	-	-
Children	-	-	-	-	-
No. of Definitely Tuberculous Patients admitted for Treatment:					
Adults: M.	20	45	34	8	23
F.	14	37	35	3	13
Children	1	6	2	-	5
Total ..	35	92	75	11	41

(B) RETURN SHOWING THE EXTENT OF RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROVIDED DURING THE YEAR 1938 IN POOR LAW INSTITUTIONS FOR PERSONS CHARGEABLE TO THE COUNCIL.

	In Insti- tutions on Jan. 1.	Admitted during the year.	Dis- charged during the year.	Died in the Insti- tutions.	In Insti- tutions on Dec. 31
No. of Patients suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis admitted for Treatment:					
Adults: M.	1	5	2	3	1
F.	1	6	2	3	2
Children	-	-	-	-	-
No. of Patients suffering from Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis admitted for Treatment:					
Adults: M.	-	3	2	-	1
F.	-	-	-	-	-
Children	-	2	1	1	-
Total ..	2	16	7	7	4

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WIGAN.

RETURN SHOWING THE IMMEDIATE RESULTS OF TREATMENT OF DEFINITELY
TUBERCULOUS PATIENTS DISCHARGED DURING THE YEAR 1938,
FROM INSTITUTIONS APPROVED FOR THE TREATMENT OF
TUBERCULOSIS.

[illegible]

ANNUAL RETURN showing in summary form the condition of all Patients whose case records are in the possession of the Dispensary at the end of 1938, arranged according to the years in which the patients first came under Public Medical Treatment for Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and their classification as shown on Form A.

[illegible]

ANNUAL RETURN showing in summary form the condition of all Patients whose case records are in the possession of the Dispensary at the end of 1938, arranged according to the years in which the Patients first came under the Public Medical Treatment, and their classification as shown on Form A.

[illegible]

RETURN SHOWING THE RESULTS OF OBSERVATION OF DOUBTFULLY
TUBERCULOUS CASES DISCHARGED DURING THE YEAR 1938, FROM
INSTITUTIONS APPROVED FOR THE TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Diagnosis on Discharge from Observation.	For Pulmonary Tuberculosis.						For Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.						Totals.		
	Stay under 4 weeks.			Stay over 4 weeks.			Stay under 4 weeks.			Stay over 4 weeks.					
	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.
Tuberculous ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Tuberculous	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	-
Doubtful	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	-

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS (ALL FORMS) NOTIFIED IN 1938.

Wards.	Population, Census 1931	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuber'losis.	Totals
No. 1—St. George	4281	1	—	1
No. 2—Lindsay	5222	7	—	7
No. 3—St. Catharine	6929	6	2	8
No. 4—St. Patrick	8571	6	4	10
No. 5—St. Thomas	4182	2	3	5
No. 6—Poolstock	4774	2	—	2
No. 7—Victoria	4747	1	2	3
No. 8—St. Andrew	14083	12	3	15
No. 9—Swinley	7880	6	3	9
No. 10—All Saints	2756	3	1	4
No. 11—West Pemberton ..	3740	1	2	3
No. 12—North „ ..	6605	6	4	10
No. 13—Central „ ..	6129	15	3	18
No. 14—South „ ..	5458	5	3	8
Totals	85,357	73	30	103

RESULTS OF SUNLIGHT TREATMENT, 1938.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

DISEASE	Under Treat- ment 1st Jan., 1938	New Cases	DISCHARGED			Ceased to Attend	Under Treat- ment 31st Dec. 1938.
			Much Im- proved	Im- proved	Sta- tionary		
T.B. Glands ..	17	17	14	1	—	5	14
Lupus	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Bones and Joints	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. Abdomen ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	19	17	14	1	—	5	16

NOTIFIED CASES ON REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

WARD	Pulmonary					Non-Pulmonary					Grand Total
	Adults		Children under 16.		Total	Adults		Children under 16.		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		
St. George's ..	5	1	—	1	7	3	1	—	—	4	11
Lindsay ..	8	6	—	—	14	3	2	2	2	9	23
St. Catharine..	8	9	1	1	19	5	3	5	4	17	36
St. Patrick ..	19	11	3	1	34	7	10	5	4	26	60
St. Thomas ..	7	3	—	—	10	4	3	4	3	14	24
Poolstock ..	4	5	1	2	12	3	—	3	2	8	20
Victoria ..	5	7	—	—	12	5	1	4	1	11	23
St. Andrew ..	29	25	2	2	58	5	5	11	12	33	91
Swinley ..	12	7	—	1	20	1	2	2	2	7	27
All Saints ..	5	5	—	2	12	1	—	—	1	2	14
Pemberton W.	12	9	1	1	23	6	6	4	1	17	40
Pemberton N.	8	7	—	1	16	3	3	7	1	14	30
Pemberton C.	3	3	1	—	7	3	3	7	2	15	22
Pemberton S.	2	3	—	—	5	1	1	9	6	17	22
Totals ..	127	101	9	12	249	50	40	63	41	194	443

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS, 1925.

During the year 1938 there was no necessity to take action under these Regulations.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, Section 62.

There was no necessity to take action during the year under Section 62, Public Health Act, 1925

10.—VENEREAL DISEASES.

The figures below show the work done in 1938:—

	<i>Borough.</i>		<i>County.</i>		<i>Others.</i>	
	1937.	1938.	1937.	1938.	1937.	1938.
(a) Number of persons from each area dealt with during the year at or in connection with the Out-Patient Clinic for the first time and found to be suffering from:—						
Syphilis	16	17	15	22	—	—
Soft Chancre	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gonorrhœa	42	42	61	88	5	1
Conditions other than Venereal	40	31	56	58	2	1
Total	98	90	132	168	7	2
(b) Total number of attendances of all patients residing in each area ..						
	4011	3780	7063	7812	110	18
(c) Aggregate number of "In-patient days" of all patients residing in each area						
	66	29	132	105	—	—

FIGURES FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
New cases	287	283	273	237	260
Total Attendances at V.D. Clinic ..	11814	12268	12648	11184	11610
In-patient days	184	286	290	198	134

II.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

	1934	1935	1936.	1937.	1938.
ATTENDANCES AT CLINICS:—					
Babies	13126	12954	13509	13916	15125
Primary Visits of Babies	1293	1294	1275	1234	1344
Expectant Mothers Weekly Clinic	855	1030	1100	1012	1126
Central					
Special Clinic	118	118	105	82	101
PEMBERTON CLINIC ..	—	—	117	312	461
MATERNAL MORTALITY:—					
Deaths	7	7	4	4	3
Rate	3·86	4·91	2·62	2·81	2·10
Births	1467	1425	1445	1354	1363
VISITS PAID TO EXPECTANT MOTHERS By Health Visitors					
	550	495	457	570	448

DENTAL TREATMENT.

The following table shows the dental work carried out during the year 1938, in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Department.

Babies Treated.	Dressing, &c.	Extractions.	Fillings.	Mothers Treated.	Extractions.	Fillings.	Scaling, &c.	Dentures.
40	20	38	11	111	109	10	38	4

CHILDREN'S ACT.

On the 1st January there were eight nursed out children on the register. On the 31st December there were six on the register. The Health Visitors who are also Infant Life Protection Visitors paid 91 visits to premises where children were being nursed out. There were no complaints.

ANTE-NATAL WORK.

	WIGAN CENTRE.		PEMBERTON CLINIC.
	Weekly Clinic.	Special Clinic.	
Number of cases attending Clinic during the year	408	86	176
Total number of attendances ..	1126	101	461
Cases referred to St. Mary's Hospital	—	20	—
Cases admitted to St. Mary's Hospital.. .. .	—	18	—

The table of infantile mortality for 1938 shows that nearly half of the deaths under one year occurred in the first four weeks of life—59 of the total 137. Over one-third were under one week old—48 of the total 137. Of the 59 deaths under one month old 40 were due to premature birth and 4 to debility, marasmus, etc.

SUMMARY OF VISITS PAID BY THE HEALTH VISITORS DURING THE YEAR 1938.

No. of primary visits to births	1421
„ visits to infants under one year	6217
„ „ infants over one year and under two years	4516
„ „ infants over two and under three years..	3285
„ „ infants over three and under four years	2661
„ „ infants over four and under five years ..	1912
„ „ expectant mothers	448
„ „ cases of Abortion	34
„ „ cases of Measles	700
„ „ cases of Pneumonia, &c.	79
„ „ cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4
„ „ re deaths under one year	118
„ „ still births	58
„ „ to midwives	541
„ other visits	280

The following is a summary of the attendances at the Clinics during the year 1938.

<i>Clinic.</i>	<i>Children</i>		<i>Total.</i>	<i>Mothers.</i>	<i>Expect. mothers.</i>	<i>Primary cases.</i>	<i>Cases examined by medical attendant.</i>
	<i>under 12 mths.</i>	<i>over 12 mths.</i>					
Central	2112	1018	3130	3072	1126	367	2204
Scholes	2221	1121	3342	3317	—	297	2427
Billinge Road ..	1956	970	2926	2990	461	285	1724
Worsley Mesnes	1243	506	1749	1703	—	142	1329
Woodhouse Lane.	2185	1793	3978	4111	—	253	2152
Totals ..	9717	5408	15125	15193	1587	1344	9836

Investigations, as requested by the Maternal Mortality Committee of the Ministry of Health, are made into all maternal deaths by the Medical Officer of Health, who interviews the general medical practitioner in charge of the cases. Confidential reports of such investigations are submitted to the Ministry without giving particulars of identification.

The Medical Officer in charge of Maternity and Child Welfare makes investigations in each case of Puerperal Pyrexia notified.

SCHOOLS FOR MOTHERS.

238 classes were held during the year 1938, and 2,153 attendances were made by mothers.

Dr. Isobel M. Smith spends two-thirds of her time in Maternity and Child Welfare Work.

The following Centres are open from 2 p.m. to 4-30 p.m. on the days mentioned in the table below, for mothers and babies, and expectant mothers—

<i>Centre.</i>	<i>Days open.</i>
Wigan Central Clinic, Municipal Buildings, Library Street	Tuesday and Thursday of each week. School for Mothers on Wednesday.
Pemberton Clinic, 15, Billinge Road..	Friday of each week. School for Mothers on Thursday. Antenatal Clinic on alternate Mondays.
Jackson's Square, Scholes	Monday of each week. School for Mothers on Friday afternoons.
Wesleyan Chapel, Worsley Mesnes ..	Wednesday each week, and also School for Mothers on Monday afternoons.
St. Andrew's Mission Room, Woodhouse Lane.	Tuesday each week. School for mothers on Wednesday.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATE TOGETHER WITH THE DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE AND THE DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS IN EACH WARD IN THE BOROUGH FOR THE YEAR 1938.

Ward.		Population 1931 Census.	No. of Births (A) Notified.	Birth Rate.	No. of Deaths of Infants under One Year.	Infantile. Death-rate per 1,000 Births.
No. 1.—St. George	..	4281	48	11.21	8	166
No. 2.—Lindsay ..	..	5222	68	11.10	8	117
No. 3.—St. Catharine	..	6929	91	13.13	6	65
No. 4.—St. Patrick	..	8571	116	13.53	16	137
No. 5.—St. Thomas	..	4183	56	13.38	6	107
No. 6.—Poolstock	..	4775	61	12.77	9	147
No. 7.—Victoria ..	..	4745	82	17.28	15	182
No. 8.—St. Andrew's	..	14085	264	18.74	21	77
No. 9.—Swinley ..	..	7880	93	11.80	8	86
No. 10.—All Saints	..	2750	27	9.81	3	111
No. 11.—West Pemberton	..	3740	47	12.56	3	63
No. 12.—North Pemberton	..	6605	106	16.04	13	122
No. 13.—Central Pemberton	..	6129	131	21.37	13	99
No. 14.—South Pemberton	..	5462	120	21.97	8	66
Wigan .. ..	..	82530 (B)	1363 (C)	16.51	137	100
126 County Boroughs and Large Towns..	..	—	—	15.00	—	57
England and Wales ..	..	—	—	15.10	—	53

(A) Does not include transferable births.

(B) Estimated population, 1st July, 1938.

(C) Total births corrected by transfers.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1938 NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.
Name of District—Wigan County Borough.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 3 months	3 months & under 6 months	6 months & under 9 months	9 months & under 12 m'ths	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes—Certified ..	48	5	4	2	59	22	27	16	13	137
Uncertified ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Group ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tubercular Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Abdominal Tuberculosis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions ..	1	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia (<i>all forms</i>) ..	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suffocation, overlying ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atelectasis ..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Malformations ..	7	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth ..	25	2	1	1	29	2	..	..	..	..
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ..	3	..	1	..	4	3	1	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at Birth ..	4	..	1	..	5	..	..	..	..	..
Other Causes ..	5	2	1	..	8	9	3	..	..	..
TOTAL ..	48	5	4	2	59	22	27	16	13	137

The following Table shows particulars of Notifications of Births received, which were notified by Doctors and Midwives :—

	<i>Doctors and Parents.</i>	<i>Midwives.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
No. of Births notified	186	1,192	1,378
Percentage	14	86	—
No. of Medical Aid Forms received	—	501	501
No. of Still-births notified.. ..	14	43	57

TABLE SHOWING METHOD OF FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER ONE
YEAR OF AGE WHO DIED DURING 1938.

SAID TO BE—

- 34 Entirely Breast-fed.
- 11 Partly Breast-fed.
- 4 Dried Milk.
- 16 Cow's Milk.
- 35 No feeding (lived 1-2 days only).
- 37 Not known.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (Notification of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) REGULATIONS, 1926.

The scheme for the treatment of cases of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia was commenced in May, 1929 when a circular containing the following instructions was sent to all the Medical Practitioners of Wigan :—

1. If a practitioner desires a second opinion on such a case he may have the services of either Dr. Berry or Dr. Graham, after notifying the Medical Officer of Health to that effect.

2. If hospital treatment is desired, arrangements have been made with Wigan Infirmary to receive such cases whenever possible ; the request for such treatment to be made to the Medical Officer of Health.

3. Home nursing will be provided if available, on application to the Medical Officer of Health.

4. Bacteriological examinations can be arranged by application as above.

CASES OF PUERPERAL PYREXIA NOTIFIED IN 1938

	No. of cases notified.	Treated at				Result.
		Home	Wigan Infirmary.	Billinge Infirmary	Private Nursing Home.	
Puerperal Pyrexia	17	14	2	1	—	16 Recovered. 1 Died

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of children under one year is 137, or 100 per 1,000 births, and of children over one year and under five years 55 or '66 per 1,000 of the population.

In 1937 there were 122 deaths under one year, a rate of 90 per 1,000.

An analysis of these 137 deaths show that they may be grouped under the following headings:—

Congenital Debility, Malformation, and Premature

Birth	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Diarrhoea and Enteritis			..	..	..	..	5
Bronchitis..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Other causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	43

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

This figure has been low for the last two years, namely 2·81 in 1937, and 2·10 in 1938 per 1,000 births.

MUNICIPAL MIDWIVES' SERVICE.

In accordance with the Midwives Act, 1936, the Council appointed twelve full-time Municipal Midwives and a Supervisor of Midwives who began duty on 30th July, 1937. All of them except the Supervisor had previously been practising independent midwives in the Borough. A Clerk was also appointed for duties in connection with the midwives. In July, 1938, an additional Midwife was appointed in place of one who had been incapacitated since November, 1937, and whose appointment has since been terminated.

The Midwives work in groups of three, each group being located in a definite area in the town and each Midwife is provided with a telephone in her home. The group system is necessary to provide for relief work and off duty time.

The number of cases attended by the Municipal Midwives during the year 1938 was 906, and the total number of confinements by all the Midwives in the town was 1,332.

At the time of writing 15 of the independent Midwives have surrendered their certificates and there are now 28 Midwives registered to practice on the local Midwives Register, including the 12 Municipal Midwives.

On the whole the scheme seems to be working satisfactorily, but on occasions there has been some difficulty in fitting in the off duty times because of pressure of work. The average number of cases attended by each Midwife is nine cases in the fortnight. A considerable time has been lost through sick leave which undoubtedly has hampered the scheme considerably and diminished the number of bookings.

It is obvious that with 28 certified Midwives on the local register there are more than enough to cope with the annual number of births, and it is desirable that the Order prohibiting unqualified Midwives from practising should be enforced.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Year	Cases.			Vision Unimpair'd	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness
	No. Notified	Treated				
		At Home	In Hospital			
1938	4	3	1	4	—	—
1937	1	—	1	1	—	—
1936	1	1	—	1	—	—
1935	2	2	—	2	—	—
1934	3	2	1	3	—	—

The following instructions are being carried out by midwives :—

- 1.—As soon as the head is born, thoroughly cleanse the eyelids and eyelashes with clean swabs, and warm boracic lotion, using separate swabs for each eye.
- 2.—When the baby is born, put one drop of a one per cent. solution of silver nitrate in the hollow between the nose and the eye, open the lids, and tilt the head and see that the fluid runs on to the surface of the eyeball. Repeat the same process with the other eye. Silver nitrate solution may be obtained free of charge by Midwives by applying to the Health Offices.

3.—Allow a few minutes to elapse and then swab with warm boracic lotion, using separate swabs as before.

4.—Don't use the silver nitrate solution again in the same case.

Every case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum is visited at once by a Health Visitor, a smear taken of discharge, if any, to be examined for gonococci or other organisms, and a report made to the Medical Officer of Health.

Cases are visited until cured.

RESULTS OF SUNLIGHT TREATMENT, 1938.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

Disease	Under Treatm't 1st Jan., 1938	New Cases	Discharged			Ceased to Attend	Under Treatm't 31st Dec., 1938
			Cured	Much Improved	Transfer to Hospital		
Marasmus	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Rickets..	7	23	—	10	—	10	10
Debility..	2	6	—	4	—	1	3
Others ..	3	3	—	2	—	3	1
	13	32	—	16	1	14	14

WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

In June, 1933, Dr. Duthie, a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, was appointed for the examination of persons under the Blind Persons Act, and he examined 45 persons during 1938.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN DURING 1938.

<i>Case No.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Nature of Case.</i>	<i>Results.</i>
1	10/3/38	Contravention of Public Health Act.	Ordered to comply with Notices
2	16/6/38	Contravention of Sunday Trading Act.	Ordered to pay costs
3	16/6/38	Contraventions of Public Health Act.	Fined £1 and costs in each of two cases
4	29/9/38	Contravention of Shops Act.	Fined £1

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